

***Gravitational Pull: A Play Involving Parallel Worlds***

**An Honors Thesis (HONR 499)**

**by**

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## **Abstract**

Writing has always interested me, and once, I took a couple of writing courses in college, I realized that writing is what I was meant to do. I decided to write a play for this project in order to gain more experience to make myself a better writer. As I have written plays before, I wanted to do more than that. Before writing the play, I chose to have parallel worlds influence the action of the play. This allowed me to have a research component. I planned to revise the play after holding a reading where I would get feedback from audience members and people that participated in the reading. All of this culminated in revising the play three times and submitting the play to several playwriting contests/festivals. Writing the play and conducting this whole process, gave me experience that a playwright would have when writing a play and taking the steps to get the art out into the world.

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## Process Analysis Statement

When I first started thinking about what I wanted to do for my Honors Thesis, I already knew I wanted to write a full length play. I fell in love with writing during my time at Ball State University, which was a love I did not know I had before college. Since it was something I discovered during college, I thought it would be fitting if it was what I used to culminate my undergrad experience at Ball State University. However, during the Spring semester of 2018 when I was deciding the finer details of this project for the proposal, I was taking Advanced Playwriting. I just finished my full length play for that class, so it was almost as if I was fresh out of ideas. This was a good experience, though, because if I want to be a writer, I will always be ending one project, then starting a new one. I also wanted to make this play and the project surrounding it more challenging to myself. As an undergrad, I have taken several writing classes, such as Intro to Creative Writing, Screenwriting, Advanced Screenwriting, Playwriting, and Advanced Playwriting. Due to this, I decided I had to do something more than write a full length play. Along with writing the play, I challenged myself to hold a reading once the play was done, make the revisions after the reading, and finally, to submit my play to some playwriting contests and/or festivals.

Once I outlined the project surrounding the play, it was time to decide what I wanted the subject of my play to be. It needed to be something I had not done before, and it would be even better, if it was out of my comfort zone. The subject also has to require research, so it could not be something that I already knew a lot about. So, I started asking myself, what interests me? What do I want to see on stage? I did not want write something for just the sake of writing it. I wanted to write something that I would write about in my career as a writer. I wanted to be passionate about it because I wanted to enjoy this experience like I enjoyed my time at Ball State University. I came up with the idea of parallel worlds. Ever since I was little, I was always

interested in the idea of parallel worlds. The fact that there could be another you somewhere else out there in the universe, doing the same thing as you or something different because the other you made different decisions. There is, also, this romantic notion behind the idea of parallel universes. Maybe you are interacting with the same people in a different universe, and that invokes this idea of fate and soulmates. It is a nice thought that aspects of life could be meant to be. Obviously, I am passionate about this subject, but it also requires research. While I had an idea of parallel worlds, I did not know the actual scientific theories behind it, or even if there were any. Finding out the general subject of my play, allowed me to find a direction of research that I really wanted to know more about.

One of my goals before beginning this project, writing a play involving parallel universes, was to get the scientific aspects of the play as close to existing theories on parallel universes as possible. If the theories did not inherently allow for a story to be told, I planned to bend them a little, so the story I came up with could be possible. I did not know where to start my research, so I simply typed in parallel worlds into a search engine. I came across Brian Greene, who is a professor of physics and mathematics at Columbia University. He has written many books involving the mysteries of the cosmos, including one on parallel worlds, called *The Hidden Reality: Parallel Universes and the Deep Laws of the Cosmos*. The book focuses on the many scientific theories surrounding parallel worlds, and some of it serves as the basis of the world created in my play. One of the coolest things I found in the book was that, with the assumption that space is infinite, there has to be some repetition. Particles in space can only be arranged in a finite amount of ways, so if space is infinite, that means regions throughout space would repeat (Greene 28). This was interesting because it explains how parallel universes could exist in a relatively simple way. As one could imagine, if particles are arranged in the same way

in different sections of an infinite space, then there could be another particle configuration that exactly resembles a human that currently exists in our universe. The book comments on this, saying, "You are not alone in whatever reaction you are now having to this view of reality. There are many perfect copies of you out there in the cosmos, feeling exactly the same way. And there's no way to say which is really you. All versions are physically and hence mentally identical" (Greene 34). It is mind-blowing to think that there is another you out there, somewhere far off in another universe, and that it could be theoretically possible. One of the parallel universe theories in this book that stood out to me was the Inflationary Multi-Universe theory. This theory is based off of the big bang theory, and no, not the television show. Most everyone knows the big bang theory, where the universe started as one small speck, then it exploded and expanded into the universe. The Inflationary Multi-Universe theory does not single out this "big bang" as an one-time event. This event that propelled the creation of our own universe may have happened "over and over again at various far-flung locations throughout the cosmos" (Greene 54). This would create a great number of technically separate universes, making it possible for them to be parallel universes. Greene calls these the bubble universes, where our universe is one of many throughout all of space. This version of parallel universes intrigued me because it would not be the hardest to try to explain in a play. Everyone already knows about the big bang theory, so all that would have to be said to explain the multiple universes would be that there was more than one big bang. To go along with the Inflationary Multi-Universe Theory, is the theory of a cosmological constant, which is dark matter. This dark matter is an invisible energy that has the feature of "repulsive gravitational force" (Greene 129). This matter would technically be what pushed the universe a part at the big bang and continues to push the universe a part. It is theorized that if this dark matter exists, then it would have to be around the same amount of the

current cosmological density of matter. If dark matter was higher, it would mess up the formation of galaxies, and if it was lower, the “whole universe would collapse before stars even have time to ignite” (Greene 151). So, out of the many big bangs that happened because of inflationary expansion, many of the universes did not have the capacity to start life if they did not have the right amount of dark matter. This thought is life-altering because it begs the question, why did our universe form to where it could hold life? It just furthers the idea of how things happen because they are meant to be, and it makes you think about all the life that could have happened in those barren universes. It somehow makes everything that is done in our universe and other universes capable of producing life more potent, if this theory were true.

Another concept I encountered while researching from Brian Greene’s book, is the idea that not all universes are the same. They would be “inexact” copies, meaning that some would be “barely distinguishable from ours, while others, the differences would range from obvious to exhilarating to shocking” (Greene 34). This is so amazing because these different universes would have a version of us but in a completely different environment and set of rules. It opens up so many realms of possibilities for worlds that just would not exist with the rules of physics that our universe binds us too. This aspect of the theory of parallel worlds would allow for so much creativity in crafting a world because anything would be possible. This could be where superheroes, vampires, or mermaids come in because those could exist in a universe where the conditions were different. Another aspect of parallel worlds the book explores is how the same person can be different in each individual parallel universe. Speaking on this, Greene says, “And so every possible action, every choice you’ve made and every option you discarded, will be played out in on patch (bubble universe) or another” (34). This is exhilarating to think about because all the choices we have made in our lifetime have shaped who we are today. If we did

not make those choices, we would not be the same people. So, there could be a parallel version of you that does exist and looks exactly like you, but you could be totally different because you have made different choices throughout your life. Of course, this extremity would vary just like the inexact copies of the actual worlds in parallel universes. There would be some of you that are slightly different, some that are extremely different, and most would be somewhere in between. However, these different versions of the same person, whether they be slightly or completely different, create this inherent sort of conflict that would be great for drama. There is this other version of you, and they may be more successful or have something you have always wanted. That is what conflict is made of, which makes parallel worlds a perfect setting for writing a play rife with conflict.

The next source I found useful in writing this play is "The Case for Parallel Universes," an article from *The Scientific American*, by Alexander Vilenkin and Max Tegmark. They are both cosmologists and big proponents of multi-universe theory. The article touches on much the same information as Brian Greene's book. It talks about the theory of inflation, and how it could create different bubble universes that would range in similarities and differences. Finding this in another source is useful because it highlights that the theory is accepted by more than one person. However, there was something I found in this article that I did not catch in the book. It explains, in theory, how parallel universes could exist. The article points out that if there is a collision between our bubble universe and another universe, the collision would "imprint in the cosmic background radiation-a round spot of higher or lower radiation intensity" (Tegmark and Vilenkin). In other words, our universe would be able to detect an anomaly on the edge of our universe, and that could lead to a discovery of parallel worlds. This was an important find in the

research because it could allow a plot point in my play to be the actual discovery of the universe. This was a theory that would directly impact my play.

Another useful part of this article is that it lays out four different types of parallel universes, and it explains it in a relatively easy way to understand. The first one is what inflation would produce. The laws of physics would be the same, but history might play out differently. The second one would be the inflationary theory combined with string theory. String theory would cause different bubble universes to have different physical properties, such as “masses of elementary particles, Newton’s gravitational constant and so on” (Tegmark and Vilenkin). The third type of multiverse, is where quantum reality plays out. This is the theory that the universe splits off with every decision ever made by anyone. The fourth type creates completely “different realities governed by different mathematical equations” (Tegmark and Vilenkin). These different theories of parallel universes explained so simply allowed me to consider which one would fit with my story better, or if any of them could overlap and be easy to combine in this new world I would create.

In researching parallel universes, quantum mechanics always came up. This was a bit difficult for me to research because quantum mechanics is a subject that is really hard to understand for anyone, not just someone who knows nothing about it. So, I found a really simplified article from *Live Science* that describes its relationship with the theory of parallel universes. Quantum mechanics looks at how subatomic particles can behave as waves and particles at the same time. This makes it look like the particle exists in multiple positions at once. The different positions the particle could take “according to its wave function split off and create, parallel worlds, each only slightly different from the original” (Dickerson). While there is more to quantum mechanics than this, this explanation gives another option on where to take my story.



If I added quantum mechanics along with quantum reality to my story, it would give a lot of emphasis to all the decisions made by characters in the play. It has the underlying theme that the opposite decision played out somewhere else, and maybe that turned out better.

After doing research on the theories of parallel worlds, I decided to see how science fiction was handled in both movies and books. I thought this was important to examine the genre separate from the form I chose to tell my story through because it would show me what works in the genre, but also give me room to adapt it to playwriting. I would be able to see what aspects of movies and books I could bring to the stage, and what I would have to tweak in order for it to make sense on the stage. The first movie I watched was *Interstellar*. This movie did not deal with parallel worlds. It dealt more with space travel and the existence of time. The movie took place in a dystopian future where Earth is dying. This causes a group of astronauts to travel through a wormhole to find a new home. The concept of time is really big in this movie, as the astronauts do not really age in space when the people back on Earth continue to age. This concept of time is really interesting to me because I think having time exist differently in different regions of space is useful to the concept of parallel worlds, as it could indicate how the parallel worlds could be different in some ways. Another aspect of this movie that I could incorporate in my play is the use of a wormhole. A wormhole is a fold in space that would allow something to travel through an expanse of space in smaller amount of time than the millions of lightyears that it would usually take. This was an important discovery to make because I was struggling to think how my characters might contact a parallel universe. Even if there was a collision of bubble universes, the collision would happen on the edge of the universe which is far away. If there was a wormhole, then that would help a potential story of my play along.

After getting this idea of a wormhole and potentially using it as a device to communicate and/or travel in the play, I started researching wormholes. I came across this article from *Live Science* that reports on a wormhole created in a lab. The device that was built “can transmit a magnetic field from one point in space to another point through a path that is magnetically invisible” (Ghose). The article also details what the wormhole was made out of and how it was built. It explains that while the wormhole created in the lab may not be a space-time one, how it works with an invisible magnetic field would be how a wormhole would work in space, if wormholes naturally exist in space. It was really cool to find wormholes could be man-made. It could potentially give some work to the characters of my play.

The last movie I watched as an exploration of the execution of the science fiction genre was *Arrival*. *Arrival* follows a linguistics professor, who tries to communicate with extraterrestrial beings after twelve spacecrafts have landed on Earth. The most useful aspect of this movie while thinking about my play was the way the humans had to communicate with the aliens. The aliens could not talk and they were at a far enough distance in the spacecraft that it was more akin to talking on a screen than in person. The aliens communicated by drawings. This drew me in because one of the limitations of science fiction on the stage, is that you cannot be as fantastical in the demonstration of other worlds like in science fiction films. It just would not have the same effect on stage because most of it would have to be lent to the imagination, which is not always a bad thing, but not what I wanted to do in this play. The movie had the aliens come to Earth, which gave me the inspiration to have the parallel worlds come to the original world. This movie also gave me the idea that the communication would not have to be face to face. This would be hard when dealing with parallel worlds because the characters would be interacting with people that are supposed to look exactly like them. It would be difficult to find

identical twins, and I could not use fancy editing or green screens on stage. This is where the idea to have the parallel characters communicate on screen with each other came from. The parallel world characters would be previously recorded, and the original world characters would respond to those recordings.

*3:59* by Gretchen McNeil is a book that I read that dealt directly with parallel worlds. It is about Josie, a teenager, who thinks her life is falling apart with her parents divorcing and her boyfriend becoming distant. She keeps having these dreams about a girl, Jo, who looks exactly like her, but with a better life (supposedly). She begins waking up at 3:59 a.m., and when she looks into the mirror in her room, she sees Jo. After talking to each other over the span of several nights, they decide to switch places for a day. However, Jo makes the mirror face the wall, so Josie cannot get back. This was interesting to me because it shows how there could be conflict between two parallel selves, and it hones in on the idea that someone would want to switch worlds so badly, they would do anything. These two themes definitely influence the course of my own play, as one of my characters ends up wanting to visit a parallel world, and this creates conflict with one of her parallel selves.

After exploring how the genre was dealt with in movies and books, I finally felt ready to begin prepping for my play. As a person I am a planner, so before I started writing the whole play I knew I wanted to do a couple of exercises to get a general idea of what and who my play was going to be about. My first exercise that I utilized in this process is called "What's the Story?" This is where I ask myself a bunch of questions that help shape the world I am creating, starting with what's the story. I answered with Estelle is a physicist obsessed with figuring out how to travel to different parallel universes. The next question I asked was how did this world discover parallel universes? I answered that there was a collision with another universe, and

scientists detected a change on the horizon of the universe. Then, how do we communicate with the parallel universe? I answered that they created tiny wormholes that allowed them to send messages to the parallel universes they connected to. I also elaborated with the explanation that the laws of physics apply differently there, so they are connected with all the universes when they get advanced enough to contact them. Then, I noted that Estelle is trying to create a wormhole big enough for a human to travel. Finally, I asked the very simple question why? This is the point where I had to come up with a general conflict for the play and why the play decided to follow Estelle. After some thinking I came up with the general conflict of Estelle wanting to go to a parallel universe that was not her own to find someone she had lost permanently in her own universe. The catch was that she had to leave behind another person that was alive and well in the universe this she was originally from. I think relationships are an important part of life, so I took careful consideration in deciding what relationships were entrenched in this conflict. Who was trying to leave their own universe? Who were they leaving behind? Who were they trying to find? At first, I came up with the idea of a mother leaving behind a daughter to find her lost lover. I decided against this for two reasons. Some of the plays I have wrote before dealt with the complexities of a mother and daughter relationship. I was comfortable in exploring that type of relationship. That is one of the reasons I decided against that relationship. I wanted to explore something that challenged me, and I did not think that was it. The other reason I decided against it was that I did not want the reason the person was leaving their own universe to be for a romantic reason. Not only is that a little played out, it just did not interest me to explore that. People doing crazy things for romantic love has been explored so much. That is not necessarily a bad thing, but I wanted to show something different. I decided to flip this trope on its head. The main character was going to leave a romantic love behind for a family member that died. The

family member was going to be a sister. So, the story became a Estelle wanting to explore other universes to find her dead sister, but she might have to leave a man behind that she loves to fix her grief. Now that I had a general subject and a general storyline, I could continue prep for writing the play.

With this exercise, I felt as if I found at least part of the heart of the story: a destroyed and lost relationship with a sister and the desperation to get that back. Because of this revelation I moved on to my next exercise which was a scene outline. I laid out every scene and gave a short summary of it. I ended up with eighteen scenes in this outline. An example is scene one: Estelle is on a date with Terrare. She talks about how her sister died. She attempts to leave, but he convinces her to stay. There's something about her that he immediately falls in love with. She also tells him what she does for a living. Another example is scene 6: Estelle is being sneaky. She opens up communication with Estelle 1. This is where she begs Estelle 1 to search for a world similar to hers, but where Luna is still alive. Estelle 1 reluctantly agrees. Another example is scene 10: Tail end of conversation with Estelle 500,657,888. She has to cut it off because Bucu walks in. Nova wants to see them. Then, scene 18: Estelle runs in crying to her house. She starts making the wormhole. Terrare convinces her to stay. Making an outline was important to my playwriting process because it gave me a more concrete story to start writing. I now had some direction to go in. It also helped me come up with other characters besides my main one.

The last exercise I did before I started writing was a character map. This would let me get the sense of all my characters. I could write them consistently and have them make decisions that would make sense. I defined Estelle as driven, focused, distant and/or detached, loves with her whole heart, intelligent, puts her own and everyone else's burdens on herself, secret, quiet, traumatized, and does not realize what she has. I defined Terrare as caring, biggest heart, idealist,

optimist, forgives, sees the best in people, not good at confrontation, just wants to make people smile, blinded by beauty and love, and as Estelle's boyfriend, who maybe loves her more than she loves him. I defined Importa as friendly, observant, caring; asks how you are doing every day and actually wants to know the answer, takes action, loyal, friends with everyone, intelligent, effortlessly cool, always tries to make conversation, easy to open up to, understanding, and as Estelle's closest friend. I defined Bucu as ambitious, does not make friends easily, cunning, not pleasant, annoying, thinks everything is a competition, selfish, fake morals, hate is easier than love, boss' pet, and as Estelle's co-worker, who does not like her. I defined Nova as no-nonsense, plays it by the book, lonely, does not really like her job, not a good listener, only sees what is right in front of her, aloof, not very excitable, only at her job for the money, and as Estelle's boss. I defined Luna as dead, sweet, fun, talkative, life of the party, fearless, loving, self-absorbed, her way or the high way, and as Estelle's sister.

This writing prep was essential to this process because I learned what exercises are most helpful when I write a play. Having a scene outline and character map made the actual writing process go a lot smoother and faster because I was not constantly searching for the next event to happen or wondering who my characters were. This gave me the freedom to write without the hesitation that comes without a plan. I also found out that while this prep is important to my writing process, it is okay for me to deviate from it. Just because I put a certain event in my scene outline, does not mean it has to play out exactly the same as I planned. Even some of the characters changed along the way. This was a challenge at first because I already had certain ideas in my head about the story. However, I had to learn to welcome these new ideas because they came from the growth of the actual story, not just a proposed one. If I stuck with the outline or original characteristics of characters, then I would have missed out on some awesome aspects

of my play. I learned to embrace my instincts with stories. It is good to plan like I originally thought, but it is also important to be flexible because you could come up with something better that improves the quality of writing.

While I have written plays before, I still learned a bunch from the writing phase of this play. This is the first play I have written that incorporated research. I needed to learn how to drop in this research in a way that did not seem like I was just repeating information. I did this with one of the most interesting concepts I found in my research. This was that if parallel worlds exist, some of the worlds never got the chance to form because they did not have enough dark matter. I slipped this information into a monologue of my main character, Estelle. She says, "Every universe out there perfectly crafted to make life has a counterpart. Some of the big bangs didn't create enough dark matter. So, there was an explosion that pushed all the material in the universe out, but it collapsed back in on itself. No chance for life to happen. It's just empty and lonely and dark, and it's hard to think about. That easily could have been our universe...sometimes I feel like that. Like I have flowers inside me. Beautiful flowers full of life. And then, I'm collapsing in on myself. Like I'm suffocating and I can't breathe. Everything just feels so heavy, and I don't know what to do. And all the flowers are dying, and I can't save them. I want to save them, but I don't know how without..." My research influenced the way one of my characters talks about her own feelings and it helped her seem like she just knows about these theories of parallel worlds. Another way I incorporated research was with the building of the wormhole. I described the wormhole in the play exactly how it was built and described in the *Live Science* article. I did this because it would seem more believable, than if I made something up completely. I also did not just want to say the wormhole already existed because I wanted the characters to have the busy work of actually building the wormhole. It was a challenge to have

them build the wormhole, as I did not want the characters saying what everything on the wormhole device meant. I mostly described the wormhole in the scene directions, but this did not solve the problem of letting the audience know how it worked. I had to compromise, and make the characters talk about it, at least a little bit, because I did not want a potential audience to be lost. So, I created this conflict where one of the characters accidentally destroyed the previous wormhole. This causes them to have to say the procedure steps out loud for safety reasons. Not only is this a way to get across information in a more organic way, it also adds conflict and tension to my play, which is great.

Another thing I learned about myself while writing this was how self-motivated I can be if I push myself. As I have mentioned before, I have written plays before. However, those were all for a class, so I had to get them done. While I did have to get this done for school, I wrote the first draft of the play in June during the summer. I really had to sit myself down and write for a certain amount each day, without a looming due date. I did not have to get the play done in a month, but that was the goal I set and I intended to meet it. I learned that I really did like writing and that I could do it for fun and for myself. This was important for me to discover about myself because it is what I want to do when I graduate. If I want to be a writer, I have to believe in myself and be self-motivated to do it. Writing this play showed me that I can do this for the rest of my life. I also improved my time management skills because I worked 30 hours a week during the summer. This was actually helpful because I will probably have another job if I decide to be a writer. Working while writing this, gave me the reassurance I can still write if I have another job.

The next part of this process was revisions and holding a reading. In order to plan a reading for my own play, I definitely had to take a leadership position. I have had leadership



positions before, but this one challenged me a bit more. I think it is because I had to make myself advocate for my own work, so I could make people interested enough to participate in it. This forced me to have more confidence in my work. I had some confidence in it, but this made me believe in myself even more. I think it is a good thing that I learned to be more confident in myself during this process because I have to be willing to put myself out there if I ever want my art to get made. In the process of holding a staged reading, I had to put out a call for actors. I sent an announcement through the weekly announcements that go to all the students in the Department of Theatre and Dance. I got responses immediately and started giving people parts. The only problem I ran into was that I had only one male respond, when I had two male characters. I solved this by just having a girl read for one of the male parts. This did not cause a problem because the character could be gender fluid. Once I got all my actors in their roles, I asked for everyone's availability. Based off of this, I set up two rehearsal dates and the date of the staged reading. Some of my actors could only make one meeting, and I had to meet with one individually because she could not make any of the rehearsals. Each day most of the actors were there, so we always got a feel of what the staged reading would feel like, so that was not detrimental to the process. I met with the girl who played Luna individually and we just went over her scenes. We also had a dialogue about her character. The first rehearsal was just a read-through, and the second rehearsal was a talk-back with the actors. This was a little challenging at first because I really loved this play, and I felt like it was getting torn apart. This was especially true for the character, Estelle, because the general consensus was that she was unlikable and that she needed to be softened. This was heart-wrenching because she was my main character, and I wanted people to want to follow her story. I had to remind myself that all this criticism was constructive and would help me improve my play. It was easier to get into this mind set after I

talked to my advisor following the second rehearsal. For the Estelle note, specifically, he said that she does not need to be likable. She just needs to have moments of vulnerability, and that helped me see that critique in fixable light to where I could still keep my original character.

After all the rehearsals were done, I could finally hold my staged reading with an audience. I moderated a talk-back with prepared questions in order to get constructive feedback. Some of the feedback I got was that Estelle needed to have more vulnerability, Terrare needed more flaws, Importa needed to be defined more as a character, Nova and/or Bucu could be cut entirely, make the ending more poetic like the beginning, and that there needed to be a scientific reason that Estelle was seeing "ghost" Luna. There was a lot more than what I listed, but these are what inspired my final (at least for now) draft. I added a new scene where Estelle shows her more vulnerable side. I thought the best way to do this would be show how much she loves Terrare because in my mind that is where her vulnerability lies. The scene I added involves her hanging stars from the ceiling and setting out flowers at their house with a little picnic planned. On the issue of Terrare having more flaws, I played into the flaw of him being too forgiving of Estelle based off of him being insecure in their relationship. I did this by making the reason he proposed is that he felt threatened by the discovery of parallel worlds. In the newest draft, I did eliminate both Nova and Bucu as characters, which helped me define Importa more. She became Estelle's boss, which created tension in their friendship because Estelle thinks that she deserved the promotion Importa got and Importa is insecure in the position because Estelle saw her at her lowest. I also gave Importa more of a backstory, which involved her mom's death and turning to alcohol. I made the ending more poetic by showing different parallel Estelles choosing to stay in her own universe or not and by different circumstances, much like the beginning shows different parallel Estelles explaining how Luna did or did not die. I mention the critique of there needing

to be a scientific reason for Estelle seeing Luna because I specifically did not take it. I like that it is ambiguous why she is seeing her Luna in her own universe when she is dead. However, I did make Luna a little more aggressive in this draft, so it would seem like Luna is her conscience telling her how guilty she should feel. Making these revisions was really challenging because I had to rearrange a lot of the play, add new scenes, and cut scenes I did not need anymore, while still making sure the flow of the story made sense. It was good that it was difficult though because I needed learn how to do a major revision of my own writing. I had never done it before and if I am going to be a writer, I need to revise because that is half of writing. It really helped me organize my thoughts as a writer and keep track of new developments and separate the old ones that were no longer relevant in the new draft.

The whole process of revising and holding a reading was very important to me as a theatre artist. Not only did I learn how to basically overhaul an entire script, I learned how to plan and execute a reading of my own play. While there were some bumps in the road for the reading, such as not all my actors could attend every rehearsal and I did not have much people show up to the staged reading, I still learned what worked in planning it and what did not. Next time, I would give myself more time to plan the reading, so I would not have rush to get rehearsal dates in. If there was not this rush, then all of my actors probably could have made all the rehearsals. I could have had more rehearsals, as well. With getting an audience to the reading, I could have advertised it more. I only asked a few people to come, and it would have been nice to have a little bit more people there, especially people that I do not really talk to that much to get fresh perspectives. Despite all this, I still think the reading was a success because I pulled it off and got valuable feedback. It also gave me skills in planning an event, which I will definitely use in the future.

After revising the final draft for this project, I started researching places to submit my play. I made a spreadsheet of a multitude of festivals and competitions. This was useful to me in this project because the spreadsheet will help keep track of the deadlines of the competitions and what they require. It will also help in the future because I can always return to this spreadsheet for places to submit future plays. I submitted to three places. I submitted to the New Works Discovery Festival at Ball State University, KACTF, and Seven Devils Playwright Conference. This was nerve-racking because I am putting myself out there with something I really care about. Actually submitting my play helped me get past that though because nothing bad happened when I did it. The worst that will come is rejection, and getting my art out there is more important than possible rejection.

Throughout the process of this project, I learned a lot about playwriting. While I did have experience writing full length plays before, this was different and challenged me. I had never written a play that required this much research before, which presented the challenge to incorporate the new knowledge in the play organically. I had never done this much revising on one of my plays before either, so that was a new and learning experience. Planning and holding a reading was also something I had never done before, and this project gave me the experience on how to do that. Submitting my play taught me how to search for festivals and contests, while also instilling the confidence I need in myself to put my work out there. The best thing about this project though, is that it let me experience a big part of being a writer. This was truly important to experience because I have a passion for writing, and this solidified for me, that I want writing in my life forever.

## ***Gravitation Pull***

### **CHARACTERS (In Order of Appearance)**

Estelle: A 25-year-old physicist, who works for the government, developing wormholes. All the other Estelles will be played by the same actor.

Terrare: Estelle's boyfriend. He is 27, and he is a Sports agent.

Luna: Estelle's sister. She's dead, but she manifests on stage sometimes because of Estelle. She is alive in other universes. All Lunas will be played by the same actor.

Importa: A 29-year-old physicist, working in the same lab as Estelle. She is the supervisor of the wormhole device project. All Importas will be played by the same actor.

## SCENE 1

*Estelle and Terrare sit at a table in a fancy restaurant. The kind that has white cloth on the table and very expensive wine. It is a little tense. Awkward from Estelle's side. It is definitely a first date. She does not do this a lot, but Terrare seems more comfortable. His ease calms Estelle. Just a little bit.*

ESTELLE

There was a crash one day.

*There is a projection that comes to life somewhere on stage with eight sections of video. Seven of them look like Estelle, just slightly different. Maybe they have different hairstyles, make-up, and/or clothes. The video is a side profile of them, and it shows that they are also on a date without showing who the date is. Each of the seven should have a label chosen from Estelle 5, Estelle 120, Estelle 1,000, Estelle 70,509, Estelle 1,065,561, Estelle 500,651,888, and Estelle 756,111,528. The eighth section is a different girl. This is Luna. The video should be the exact same set up as the Estelles. This label should be Luna 878,500,616.*

ESTELLE 5

There was a crash one day.

ESTELLE 120

There was a crash one day.

ESTELLE 1,000

There was a crash one day.

ESTELLE 70,509

There was a crash one day.

ESTELLE 1,065,561

There was a crash one day.

ESTELLE 500,651,888

There was a crash one day.

ESTELLE 756,111,528

There was a crash one day.

LUNA 878,500,616

I don't know if I can talk about the crash.

ESTELLE

It was my fault. I killed Luna. My sister.

ESTELLE 5

It was my fault Luna died.

ESTELLE 120

Luna died, and it was all my fault.

ESTELLE 1,000

My sister died, and it was all my fault.

ESTELLE 70,509

My sister died, and it was all my fault.

ESTELLE 1,065,561

It was all my fault Luna died.

ESTELLE 500,651,888

It was all my fault we got into that crash. Luna's paralyzed from the waist down, and I can't do anything about it.

ESTELLE 756,111,528

The crash was my fault. I'm lucky Luna and I survived. Just a couple of scratches.

LUNA 878,500,616

It hurts to think about.

ESTELLE

I volunteered to be sober that night, and she got wasted.

ESTELLE 5

She was completely wasted, and I was stone cold sober.

ESTELLE 120

I was DD because Luna had a hard week, and she wanted to get over it by drinking.

ESTELLE 1,000

Luna was drunk, and I wasn't.

ESTELLE 70,509

Luna was drunk, and I wasn't.

ESTELLE 1,065,561

She was completely wasted, and I was stone cold sober.

ESTELLE 500,651,888

Luna was drunk, and I was sober. I was driving.

ESTELLE 756,111,528

Luna was drunk off her ass.

LUNA 878,500,616

I mean, I was super, obnoxiously drunk. Which I thought was fine, since Estelle was driving.

ESTELLE

We were at this stupid 21<sup>st</sup> celebration for our friend at a bar. She was pestering me on the way back, and I wasn't paying attention. I thought the light was green.

ESTELLE 5

She just-I ran a red light. The truck hit her side.

ESTELLE 120

I swear the light was green. Luna was distracting me, all hyped up from our friend's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

ESTELLE 1,000

Luna kept poking me in the face, so I turned to yell at her, and ran a red light. I don't know why we even went to the bar. We don't even like Joey.

ESTELLE 70,509

Luna kept poking me in the face, so I turned to yell at her, and ran a red light. I don't know why we even went to the bar. We don't even like Joey.

ESTELLE 1,065,561

She just-I ran a red light. The truck hit her side.

ESTELLE 500,651,888

She just kept pestering me. And I didn't see the light turn red.

ESTELLE 765,111,528

She was being her normal drunk self. Luckily no one in the truck got hurt either.

LUNA 878,500,616

I kept poking at her, trying to get her to pay attention to me. She ran a red light, and the truck hit my side so hard, the whole car flipped.

ESTELLE

I just really miss her.

ESTELLE 5

I just really miss her.

ESTELLE 120

I just really miss her.



ESTELLE 1,000

I just really miss her.

ESTELLE 70,509

I just really miss her.

ESTELLE 1,065,561

I just really miss her.

ESTELLE 500,651,888

I'm just glad she's still here.

ESTELLE 756,111,528

The crash may have brought us a little closer.

LUNA 878,500,616

It's my fault Estelle is dead.

*Terrare looks a little stunned but recovers quickly.*

TERRARE

Wow. How long ago did this happen?

ESTELLE

Five years...

*The projections fade away, and Estelle looks a little startled. She looks at Terrare and shoots up from her chair.*

ESTELLE

I'm so-God-I'm sorry.

*She pushes in her chair.*

ESTELLE

Who talks about that on a first date? I'm so sorry, I should go.

*Estelle turns to leave, and Terrare jumps out of his chair.*

TERRARE

No! Stay, please. I don't mind.

*Estelle pauses, but she stays silent.*

TERRARE

We can forget it happened. I mean, if you don't want to talk about it, we can-don't have to talk about it. Just stay, please.

*Terrare gives a reassuring smile and some tension leaves Estelle's body. She nods and sits back down in her chair. Terrare breathes a sigh of relief, and he sits down himself.*

ESTELLE

So...what do we talk about after that?

TERRARE

Why don't you tell me about what you do-your job?

ESTELLE

I'm a physicist for the government.

TERRARE

That sounds...

ESTELLE

Boring?

*Terrare laughs.*

TERRARE

No, no, no.

ESTELLE

It's okay. It sounds boring when I say it like that.

TERRARE

How do you make it sound exciting, then?

ESTELLE

I was contracted by the government to try to develop a wormhole that would allow us to travel across space faster.

TERRARE

You say that like it's no big deal. Are you even supposed to be telling a civilian this?

*Estelle genuinely laughs. She looks surprised, like she hasn't done it in a while.*

ESTELLE

No, not really.

TERRARE

Then, why'd you tell me?

ESTELLE

Something about your eyes.

TERRARE

That's interestingly vague.

ESTELLE

I guess, you'll just have to stick around to figure out what I mean.

*Terrare laughs.*

TERRARE

So, space travel. What made you interested in that?

ESTELLE

It's just-it's-there's so much out there. It's practically infinite, if not actually infinite. Ever since I was maybe a teen, okay, don't laugh, ever since I was a teen I was always interested in the idea of parallel worlds.

*Terrare scoffs.*

TERRARE

Isn't that a little sci-fi for a physicist?

ESTELLE

Some physicists practically champion it. String theory, quantum mechanics, the inflationary theory with multiple big bangs. People really have no idea-a lot of theories do not just work with the idea of parallel universes-multi-verses-, but some of the theories don't work without multiple universes.

TERRARE

I don't know, it still seems a little far-fetched.

ESTELLE

Why can't it be true? Space is so huge. If it's infinite, why can't there be any repetition? There could be another me. Another you. In this same place, or a different place. On a first date. Or maybe a second or third. Isn't that just...

*Estelle can't seem to find the words, and Terrare is transfixed. Amazed by the passion in Estelle's voice.*

TERRARE

Beautiful.

ESTELLE

Yeah.

## SCENE 2

*Estelle and Importa are in a high-tech lab. They are wearing white lab coats and protective goggles. There is a computer that is powered by a huge machine with blinking lights and lots of buttons. Next to that is a desk, where Importa stands, clipboard in hand. She reads it over a couple of times, then walks over to the computer and types. In the middle of the stage is a huge basin with a fog-like substance coming out of it. Directly behind the basin is an electricity generator. Estelle is at a table, building a cylindrical device with two concentric circles on each end. On the table are various tools and oddly a ball.*

IMPORTA

How's it going, Estelle?

*She still looks at the computer and doesn't look up at Estelle.*

ESTELLE

We still have to install the two inner cylinders. As you show know, they are critical to the activation of the electromagnetic field, so we really need to be careful.

IMPORTA

C'mon. We should've been done a couple of hours ago. We've already built a wormhole exactly like this.

*Estelle scoffs and rolls her eyes. She focuses intently on the device, not letting Importa get the better of her.*

ESTELLE

Oh, I wonder what happened to that particular wormhole device.

*Importa looks up so fast, she might get whiplash, pleading look in her eyes.*

IMPORTA

Don't.

*Estelle still focuses on the device.*

ESTELLE

What was it again? Could it be that an inept scientist-no, wait-supervisor-could not work the wormhole on her own, so when tasked with conducting the first experiment with a live subject, the device exploded. Five years of testing different versions of the wormhole without one little hiccup. And you ruin that perfect record.

*Estelle laughs, and Importa rushes at her, asserting her authority.*

IMPORTA

Chop, chop, Estelle. You know Nova wants this device done today.

ESTELLE

You should have been demoted.

IMPORTA

Well, I wasn't. In fact, last time I checked, I'm your superior.

ESTELLE

Well, that's just the problem, isn't it?

IMPORTA

Opening up the wormhole is difficult for one person, if they have not prepared for that. If I remember correctly, you called off without warning or an explanation. It was hard to find a replacement with your clearance.

*Estelle finally looks up from the device and puts her tools down. She walks until she is face to face with Importa.*

ESTELLE

I managed just fine without you.

*Importa ignores that comment, her face cold, different from before.*

IMPORTA

You better be done, if you walked away from that device.

ESTELLE

It's done.

IMPORTA

Good.

*Estelle grabs the device and heads toward the basin. Importa walks to the computer.*

IMPORTA

Okay, Estelle, put the device into the liquid nitrogen bath.

ESTELLE

I know what to do.

*Importa sighs.*

IMPORTA

You know as well as I do, that Nova implemented procedures that require us to say the steps out loud, since the incident.

ESTELLE

Yeah, yeah.

IMPORTA

Place the device in the basin.

*Estelle places the device into the basin.*

IMPORTA

Now, connect the electricity generator to the wormhole device.

*Estelle connects the electricity generator to the device. She pulls the lever of the electricity generator. First, a flash of blue electricity. Then: beautiful and chilling. Think galaxies. I suggest the Majestic Sombrero Galaxy, or the Antennae Galaxies. Think the Bubble Nebula star clusters, or Supernovas. Lots of flashing lights when the wormhole is open: blues, purples, pinks, reds, greens, yellows, etc. The essence of stars shown on the stage through lighting. Then, there are sounds like all the air is being sucked out of the room. Even though they have seen this all before, they look as amazed as they did the very first time. After a couple moments of silence, Estelle walks over to get the ball from the table. She rushes back toward the device.*

ESTELLE

Can I put the ball through the wormhole?

IMPORTA

Hold on, let me type in the coordinates.

*Importa leans down to the computer and types the coordinates into it.*

IMPORTA

Okay, drop it.

*Estelle puts the ball through the wormhole. They look to the ceiling as if waiting for something to fall down. After a couple of seconds, the ball falls to the stage.*

IMPORTA

Alright, shut it off.

*Estelle turns the lever on the electricity generator, and everything goes back to normal. There is a strange silence. The kind of empty feeling you have after having a really great day and being alone at night. Estelle walks over to the desk and sits down in the chair. All the tension leaves her body, and she visibly deflates.*

IMPORTA

Estelle, what was that?

*Estelle sighs.*

ESTELLE

We just had a successful test of the wormhole.

IMPORTA

You know what I mean.

ESTELLE

You need to lighten up. I was only giving you a hard time.

IMPORTA

Well, if it undermines my authority, then it is detrimental to us working as a unit. In some ways, you can't talk to me like you did before. In the lab, I'm your boss.

ESTELLE

I know, I know. It's just taking some getting used to.

IMPORTA

It's been six months.

ESTELLE

Yeah, but we were regular co-workers for years. It's just hard to see you like that when we were friends. And, no offense, you get kind of snippy when enacting your authority.

IMPORTA

We are still friends.

ESTELLE

Are you sure?

IMPORTA

I'm still trying to find the balance between being your friend and your boss.

ESTELLE

Yes, and I need to start seeing you as a supervisor. Time will tell if we actually achieve our goals.

*Estelle smiles cheekily at Importa, and Importa laughs. Remnants of their old friendship shining through.*

IMPORTA

So, how are you doing?

*Estelle groans in annoyance.*

ESTELLE

I'm doing great, actually. Just going to head out early, since this wormhole testing was the only thing on the agenda today.

IMPORTA

Ooo, scandalous.

ESTELLE

Ha-ha.

IMPORTA

Why so eager to get out? Unusual for you.

*Estelle waggles her eyebrows.*

ESTELLE

I'm sorry. That information is reserved for friends that are not my boss.

*Estelle gives a big grin, teasing and trying ease back into their friendship.*

IMPORTA

Oh, I see. It's Terrare.

ESTELLE

No, it's not.

IMPORTA

Yes, it is. You always get a little red when you talk or think about him.

ESTELLE

I do not!

IMPORTA

Yes, you do. And just so you know, it's okay to have feelings.

*Estelle rolls her eyes.*

ESTELLE

Whatever. I'm going. You should probably get out of here too. Don't want Nova to give you some meaningless task and you're here until it's dark.

IMPORTA

I'm so glad you ca-

*Importa is cut off by a loud siren and a red flashing light fills the stage. Estelle and Importa look at each other, everything said previously forgotten.*



ESTELLE

Oh my god.

*They both sprint out of the lab.*

### SCENE 3

*Estelle is in the living room of her and Terrare's house. She hangs a silver, sparkly star to join the many silver, sparkly stars already hanging from the ceiling. On the ground are ten or so vases with bouquets of flowers that are drawn on paper. They should be obviously drawn by an amateur, but effort should be extremely visible with how many different colors there are. In the middle of the vases is a blanket with a picnic basket on top of it. As Estelle ties the star on a string, Terrare walks in. He looks confused at first, but lets out a small, incredulous chuckle. This startles Estelle, as she jumps and turns around quickly. She looks at her watch with outrage.*

ESTELLE

You are not supposed to be home right now. You said you would be home at eight. It is seven o'clock on the dot.

TERRARE

I could say the same to you. You are home uncharacteristically early.

*Estelle groans.*

ESTELLE

Ugh. I should have been home earlier, but something truly amazing happened. Like the reason, I became a physicist happened tod-wait, that's not what this is about.

*Terrare laughs.*

TERRARE

What is this about, then...Oh no, is it some anniversary I forgot?

ESTELLE

Oh no, no.

*Estelle runs over to hug Terrare.*

ESTELLE

That's not it at all.

*Terrare pulls away from Estelle.*

TERRARE

Then what is it?

ESTELLE

Okay, I'm not good at this type of stuff, y'know mushy gushy type of stuff.

TERRARE

And I think that's great. Makes it cute when you try.

ESTELLE

I don't want to be cute. I want it to be romantic. I want to make you cry.

*Terrare lets out a loud laugh.*

TERRARE

That's a little aggressive.

ESTELLE

You know what I mean. I just want to make you feel special.

*Terrare smirks at her and nods. He walks over to the couch and sits down. He folds his arms and crosses his legs, but remains silent for a second*

TERRARE

I'm waiting.

ESTELLE

T, I'm serious.

TERRARE

So, am I. Light up my world, Estelle.

*Estelle takes deep breath. Maybe gets rid of nerves by shaking her hands.*

ESTELLE

I know most of the time I seem all caught up in my job. I work late, and when I come home I'm in my lab for a lot of the time.

TERRARE

You know I love how passionate you are about your work. You wouldn't be you if you weren't, and most of the time you make up for it with things like this.

*Estelle shushes him and laughs.*

ESTELLE

Let me finish.

TERRARE

Okay, okay.

ESTELLE

And, it is because for so long it was my work that got me through things. It is how I distracted myself from Luna's death. If I had a bad day with it, I would throw myself into work to forget about it. I'd work until I was dead tired, so I could go to bed right away and not think about it.

*Estelle pauses, and Terrare nods encouragingly.*

ESTELLE

Then...you came into my life and everything changed. It is like I was lost in the stars millions of light years away. You have this magnetic pull, this gravity, that brings me back down to Earth, and you show me that, here on the ground, is just as great as being in space. You showed me that flowers...are just as great as stars.

*There is an extended silence, as they just stare at each other. Terrare slowly gets up from the couch.*

ESTELLE

You showed me I could lie among the flowers and the stars by just being here. By taking away some of the pain since...you know.

*Terrare starts walking toward Estelle.*

ESTELLE

And I know I don't tell you enough. This might be a little dramatic, but I thought maybe dramatic is good. I made you your favorite dessert, cheesecake, so we could kind of picnic under the stars and in a field of flowers. I just thou-

*Estelle cuts off because Terrare starts kissing her. Eventually they pull apart, and Terrare starts laughing. Estelle rolls her eyes.*

ESTELLE

Stop laughing.

*Terrare continues laughing and leans his forehead against Estelle's.*

TERRARE

You are so adorable, but what brought all this on?

ESTELLE

I just want you to know how much I love you.

TERRARE

I already know that.

*Estelle laughs. They both sit down on the blanket. Estelle opens up the picnic basket and pulls out the cheesecake and two forks. She hands one to Terrare. They start eating the cheesecake. There are a couple of moments of silence.*

TERRARE

So, what happened at work?

*Estelle drops her fork.*

ESTELLE

Oh, yeah. How could I forget? Get ready, T because this news is big.

TERRARE

Oh, I'm ready.

ESTELLE

We discovered another universe!

TERRARE

What? That's amazing. How do you guys know though?

ESTELLE

It's like this-

*Estelle uses her hands to demonstrate.*

ESTELLE

Our two universes bumped into each other. Eh-I'll say crashed because it was hard enough that the two got stuck together. We detected an anomaly-a heat signature-on the very edge of the horizon of our universe. Nothing else can be out there. It has to be another universe!

TERRARE

Can you guys, like, communicate with them?

ESTELLE

Hopefully. Do you know what this means, though? If there are people in that universe. It's done. We've proved that we're not the only people out there. It is going to be world-changing.

TERRARE

Yeah...world-changing.

*Estelle goes back to eating the cheesecake as Terrare stares at her.*

**SCENE 4**

*Estelle and Importa stand in the lab in front of a huge screen that says connecting. There is anticipation in the air.*

ESTELLE

They finally answered our signal?

IMPORTA

Yes.

ESTELLE

Who are they?

IMPORTA

They didn't say. Just asked for contact immediately. Nova's on standby in her office, if it is a hostile force.

*Estelle rolls her eyes.*

ESTELLE

Of course, that's the first thing they think of.

IMPORTA

Be grateful they didn't take over this department when we reported the discovery.

ESTELLE

I guess.

*They stand in silence for a couple of moments. The screen eventually comes to life, displaying different versions of Estelle and Importa. It's like looking in a fun house mirror. The new Estelle, Estelle 1, has glasses and extremely short hair. There is an intimidating presence about her. The new Importa, Importa 1, has different colored hair. There is a streak of color in it and it is curly.*

IMPORTA

You-you're me. And you're h-h-her. This-you're-

*Estelle is stunned into silence, mouth gaping.*

ESTELLE 1

Yes. I believe a word your universe uses is doppelganger.

ESTELLE

That means-

ESTELLE 1

You discovered a parallel universe.

*All the sudden Luna walks in the lab. No one notices, but Estelle. She looks terrified at first but chooses to ignore it. She's not real. She can't be.*

IMPORTA 1

Actually, we discovered you. Bumped into you on purpose to see if you were advanced enough to contact us.

*Estelle 1 gives Importa 1 a look.*

LUNA

Do you think I'm still alive there?

*Estelle doesn't even react.*

IMPORTA 1

And you guys don't need to know that. Right.

*Importa gives an awkward laugh, eyeing Estelle 1 and Importa 1.*

IMPORTA

Alright, I think we should start introducing ourselves. So, we get a feel of where everyone is at in their lives in their respective universes.

*Estelle 1 smiles at Importa.*

ESTELLE 1

That's a great idea, Importa! How about my Importa goes first?

LUNA

I mean where ever there is. Do you think that Estelle caused her Luna's death?

*It is getting harder for Estelle to ignore her.*

IMPORTA

Fine with me.

*Importa 1 tries to smile at Importa, but she ignores her.*

IMPORTA 1

Well, I am this universe's Importa. I am a physicist in our department with a concentration in astronomy.

*Estelle 1 nods at Importa to introduce herself.*

IMPORTA

I'm Importa. My Estelle and I are under the Space Exploration department of our government in the United States of America. Nova James is the head of our department, but she designated this meeting to us. I am the supervisor of the wormhole device project...and I also have a concentration in astronomy.

ESTELLE 1

Impressive.

*Importa barely contains an eye-roll.*

LUNA

You know, I never understood this stuff. It was like another language, gibberish, whenever you talked about it. Parallel worlds, multiple universes, all that crazy space stuff. I didn't get it, but I still listened because you were, like in love with it. That's how good of a sister I am.

ESTELLE 1

Alright, I'm Estelle. I am the coordinator of the Multiple Universes Control Department in the United States of America.

LUNA

Wow, she looks just like you, freaky.

IMPORTA

Wait, your universe was already aware of multiple universes?

*Estelle 1 smiles.*

ESTELLE 1

Yes, we have access to all the universes that have existed, that exist, and that will exist.

IMPORTA

But, how?

*Luna cracks a smirk.*

LUNA

She has better hair though.

ESTELLE 1

With our travel to the different universes, it would probably be best to explain it like this: most of the universes we visit have different laws of physics than we do. Our laws allow us to travel faster through space than you'll ever hope too. It allows us to explore all areas of space like time does not exist.

LUNA

See, freaky.

*Estelle frowns. Luna is getting to her.*

IMPORTA

Why haven't you contacted us, then? Or any other universe for that matter. You could be helping to advance universes for the better.

*Importa 1 glances at Estelle 1, and she nods at her.*

IMPORTA 1

As my Estelle mentioned, we are a control agency. However, we try to interfere with other universes as little as possible because we don't want to mess up the space-time continuum of any of the universes. We want all the universes to advance technologically and in thinking without aid from us because we have found waiting for advancement tends to create less conflict.

LUNA

Ask her if I'm still alive.

ESTELLE 1

Alright, we should probably get back get back on track for the introductions before we get heavy into the impact of multiple universes.

LUNA

You know you are dying to know.

ESTELLE 1

Estelle?

LUNA

Sorry, that joke was in poor taste. I just have to know. Am I still alive? You definitely owe me that after what happened.

*Estelle looks at Luna. She closes her eyes for a couple of seconds. She opens them back up. Luna waves.*

LUNA

Still here.

*Estelle closes her eyes again, tighter, squeezing her hands, as well.*

LUNA

No matter how hard you try, I'm not going to disappear this time.

IMPORTA

Estelle!



*Estelle opens her eyes and quickly glances at Importa, who gives her a murderous look.*

LUNA

Rude.

*Estelle glances toward Luna again, who stares back at her.*

ESTELLE

I-

*Estelle looks toward the screen, avoiding Luna's eyes.*

ESTELLE

I'm Estelle. A physicist of this department.

LUNA

I think you forgot an important question.

ESTELLE 1

Now, we can move on to-

ESTELLE

Is Luna still alive?

*Everyone gets quiet. Importa looks at Estelle, questioningly.*

IMPORTA

Who is Luna?

*Estelle ignores her.*

LUNA

Keep going.

ESTELLE 1

What?

ESTELLE

Luna. Is she still alive?

ESTELLE 1

Who's that?

LUNA

She's got to be kidding.

ESTELLE

My sister. Your sister?

*Estelle 1 looks almost apologetic, and Importa looks flabbergasted, then hurt. She did not know.*

ESTELLE

I'm sorry, Estelle. I don't have a sister.

LUNA

I don't exist there?

ESTELLE

What?

LUNA

I mean at least she didn't kill me.

ESTELLE 1

Sometimes that happens. Parallel universes can be the same, similar, or completely different. There are so many choices that people make every day, and different choices play out into different universes.

*Everyone is silent. No one really knows what to say. Estelle rushes off stage, leaving everyone behind.*

## SCENE 5

*Terrare sits on a couch in the living room of his and Estelle's house. He is contemplating something, looks a little nervous. He suddenly reaches into his pants pocket and pulls out a ring box. He opens it up and reveals a stunning engagement ring. He smiles softly, thinking of Estelle. Suddenly, he hears a door shutting. Terrare startles and quickly shoves the box back into his pocket. He stands up from the couch just as Estelle walks into the living room.*

ESTELLE

Hey, T!

*Terrare gives a big smile.*

TERRARE

Hey!

ESTELLE

So, the people from the other universe finally contacted us back.

TERRARE

It's about time. What's it been? Like two weeks?

ESTELLE

That seems about right, but that's not what I wanted to talk about.

TERRARE

What is it then?

ESTELLE

It's a parallel world!

TERRARE

Oh my god. Does that mean...

ESTELLE

I literally met another me.

TERRARE

No, you didn't.

ESTELLE

Which means, there is probably another you out there too. Actually, multiple, since there is more than one parallel universe.

TERRARE

No way. That's mind-blowing.

ESTELLE

Tell me about it. I'm going to go down to the workshop. There's so much to prepare for!

*Estelle begins to walk away, but Terrare grabs her.*

TERRARE

Before you go down there, I kind of wanted to talk to you about something.

ESTELLE

Alright.

TERRARE

You know how much I love you.

ESTELLE

Okay, now you are scaring me.

*Terrare takes Estelle's hands.*

TERRARE

Sorry, sorry. I'm nervous, okay? Ever since-ever since you came in to my life, everything-my world has changed. You've brought light, stars, galaxies even into my life.

*Estelle laughs.*

ESTELLE

Go on.

TERRARE

You're just perfect. Everything about you...from your strength. The way you handle Lun-her death is inspiring. The way you take on each day with such fierce determination, and even though your work sometimes consumes you, I love your passion. And the way you've slowly let me into your life, little by little, showing how you think carefully, but also are open to love. I just...love you. I'm in love with you, and I don't want to find out what I'd have to do to get on without you.

*Estelle looks terrified.*

ESTELLE

T...I'm no-

TERRARE

Estelle, I'm not proposing now. This isn't the place for it. You deserve so...much more. I am proposing the idea of proposing.

*Estelle takes her hands away from him and walks away from him in disbelief. She's kind of freaking out.*

ESTELLE

Terrare, I'm not ready to get married now.

TERRARE

What do you mean?

ESTELLE

It's just-too soon. I mean, we just moved in together. It's a little fast.

TERRARE

We've been living together for six months, and we are coming up on five years together.

ESTELLE

It's four!

TERRARE

It's almost five, and you know it.

ESTELLE

God, I'm just not ready. Can't you see that? I can't believe you brought this up when you know how busy work is going to be.

TERRARE

That's why I brought it up!

ESTELLE

What?

TERRARE

I can tell you're going to pull away. You're gearing up to. It always happens. Two steps forward, and four steps back.

ESTELLE

And you think that proposing will change all that?

TERRARE

I didn't propose. I proposed the idea of proposing.

ESTELLE

Same difference! A ring on my finger isn't going to change how much time I spend at work.

TERRARE

It will symbolize the importance of our relationship.

ESTELLE

Do I not show that enough?

*Terrare remains silent.*

ESTELLE

Do you feel threatened?

TERRARE

How could I not be? I know it's only been a couple of weeks, but it's like I don't exist.

ESTELLE

Why are you insecure in our relationship, all the sudden? I've always been all about my work. I thought you loved that.

TERRARE

I do, Estelle, I do. You wouldn't be you without that drive and passion.

ESTELLE

Then, what's the problem?

TERRARE

It's just-the closer you get to space-the further you get away from me.

ESTELLE

Why can't I have both?

TERRARE

You just said you couldn't.

ESTELLE

No, I didn't. I said I can't do marriage. I can do you and work, but not marriage. If I get married, it's going to be an all-out affair.

*Terrare laughs.*

ESTELLE

This multiple universe discovery is going to turn into late nights at work. I don't want to add wedding planning to that and have no time for you.

TERRARE

Sometimes I feel like I'm an anchor weighing you down, keeping you from getting to or what you really want.

ESTELLE

I want you and I want space, the stars, the sun, and all that. I love you, okay. I really want that to be enough. A ring won't increase or decrease it. I hope you can understand that.

*Terrare looks into Estelle's eyes.*

TERRARE

Just...think on it. Don't say no right now.

ESTELLE

T-

TERRARE

Please, do that. For me? Who knows? Maybe this parallel world stuff will be boring as hell.

*Estelle gives a weak laugh.*

ESTELLE

Maybe.

*There is a silence.*

TERRARE

Estelle?

ESTELLE

Yeah, yeah. I can think on it.

TERRARE

Well, I'm going to bed. You still going down to the workshop?

ESTELLE

Yeah.

*There is a tense silence. Terrare does not seem happy, but Estelle remains purposefully oblivious.*

TERRARE

Okay.

*Terrare begins walking out of the living room.*

ESTELLE

I love you.

*Terrare doesn't answer and disappears offstage. Estelle is left alone.*

## SCENE 6

*The stage is set up for the lab. The screen is down. No one is on stage. After a couple of seconds, Estelle walks in. She looks a little paranoid, looking around. Guilty, like she shouldn't be there. She walks up to the computer in the lab, and from there she turns on the huge screen. She gets on a video chat and chooses the name: Parallel World 1-Estelle. The screen says connecting. Estelle goes to stand in front of the screen.*

ESTELLE

C'mon, c'mon.

*The screen says connecting for a couple more seconds before Estelle 1 fills the screen.*

ESTELLE

Thank god!

*Estelle 1 looks surprised.*

ESTELLE 1

Estelle! Is there something wrong?

ESTELLE

This is still so weird.

*Estelle 1 laughs.*

ESTELLE 1

I'd imagine it is.

ESTELLE

I wanted to talk to you about something, actually.

*Estelle 1 looks slightly confused.*

ESTELLE 1

Okay...what do you need to talk about?

ESTELLE

Would it be possible to communicate with other universes through you?

ESTELLE 1

Yes, of course. We could extend the signal you sent us to other universes. We'd just make your signal more powerful.

ESTELLE

Okay.

*Estelle 1 looks at Estelle carefully.*

ESTELLE 1

Is your team hoping to connect with another universe? My understanding is that you guys wanted to build a device to travel to our universe before contacting others. In fact, that is the protocol for our agency.

ESTELLE

That's not it. My team doesn't want to...I want to.

ESTELLE 1

Is this about Luna?

ESTELLE

Yes.

ESTELLE 1



What exactly do you want me to do?

ESTELLE

I want to see Luna again. To hug her. To say sorry. I want to find a universe where she's still alive. I just-I miss her, and I don't know what to do to make it go away. All of it, go away unless I see her in person, at least for a little while.

ESTELLE 1

I don't think you know what you're asking for, Estelle. There are infinite amounts of universes out there. Even though time doesn't seem to exist here, it does for you. You want a Luna alive. You want a Luna that loves you just as much as she loved you there. You want the same relationship. That narrows down the possibilities even more. In any number of universes, you could be estranged with her, or you're just not as close.

*There is a beat of silence.*

ESTELLE

I don't care how long it will take, as long as I see her again.

ESTELLE 1

I won't even touch on how dangerous, it would be for you to travel when your department hasn't sanctioned it yet. Even if somehow, you developed a wormhole device that is big enough for you to travel, you probably don't have a suit to protect you through the travel.

ESTELLE

You said you guys use wormholes to deliver items throughout all the universes. If you were willing to help me, you could send me the protectives suits you guys use to travel. I'd appreciate a spaceship, but I don't have anywhere to hide it.

*Estelle tries to laugh to lighten the mood, but it comes out a little strained. Estelle 1 looks frustrated.*

ESTELLE 1

What you are asking me to do is illegal. Also, I can't possibly search every single universe for your perfect one. There are too many.

ESTELLE

Then choose them at random. I don't care. If it's infinite, there is repetition. So, there is more than one universe out there that is perfect for me. That increases the chances of finding one.

ESTELLE 1

Estelle, I don't think you are hearing me. You are asking me to help you out before you develop the technology yourself, as well as asking me to smuggle contraband.

ESTELLE

That would be the point of keeping this secret.

ESTELLE 1

I am part of a control agency. We can't just let people come and go. I could lose my job, and I can't risk that for you. Sorry.

ESTELLE

I know it's a lot I'm asking. But you have to understand. Please. We are connected somehow. You can't tell me you're not feeling the pain I'm feeling right now.

*Estelle 1 remains silent.*

ESTELLE

You know, I'm right. It hurts. And it was all my fault. I need to make it right.

*Estelle 1 lets out a bitter laugh.*

ESTELLE 1

I already did this.

ESTELLE

You mean another Estelle already asked you to do this?

ESTELLE 1

No. I mean I already did this. Searched as many universes as I could find to find the exact version of the person I lost. Never found them. It hurt...more than you'd expect. More than ever losing them the first time because you lose them over and over again after every failed universe. So, I stopped.

ESTELLE

I'm sorry that it happened to you too, but at least you got to try. Let me try. Please?

ESTELLE 1

I don't know. It jus-

ESTELLE

Who was it? The person you lost. You don't have a sister, so it couldn't be Luna.

ESTELLE 1

My husband. He died on the way to pick me up after a girl's night out.

ESTELLE

That sounds familiar.

ESTELLE 1

It tends to turn out that way between doppelgängers.

ESTELLE

What was his name?

ESTELLE 1

What?

ESTELLE

Your husband. What was his name?

ESTELLE 1

Terrare.

ESTELLE

I'm-that's-Terrare-I'm with him now.

*Estelle 1 is genuinely surprised.*

ESTELLE 1

Every other universe I've visited, he's been dead or we had a terrible break-up or he's married and we're having an affair. I can't-you have to bring him here. Will you do that? I just-I want to talk to him.

*Estelle smiles.*

ESTELLE

Of course, of course I will.

*There is a silence. Estelle 1 looks thoughtful.*

ESTELLE 1

Estelle-what you're asking me to do-it's a lot more than what I'm asking you. You want to visit the actual universe.

ESTELLE

I know. It's a lot, but I know you understand. You tried to do it

*Estelle 1 remains silent, then suddenly laughs.*

ESTELLE

Estelle?

ESTELLE 1

I took him for granted when he was alive. I was always working, coming home late. He had to be lonely.

ESTELLE

You have a chance to make it right. To fix everything. And I do too.

ESTELLE 1

I don't know if it is a good idea.

ESTELLE

I know the guilt you feel. Whenever I think of Luna, I feel little pinpricks of it all over my body. I know the sadness you feel because whenever I look at her number in my phone, I feel...like I can't think, or move. There is not a single person or thing that will break me out of it except for her.

ESTELLE 1

Estelle-

ESTELLE

Just-please. I want this feeling to go away for good. It always comes back, no matter how far I push it from my mind.

ESTELLE 1

Okay, okay. I'll try.

ESTELLE

That's all I ask.

## SCENE 7

*Estelle sits in a little café. She's only drinking water, as she is waiting for someone. Eventually Luna walks in. Estelle's face gets hard. She's not happy to see her. Luna just sits in the chair opposite Estelle like she was invited.*

LUNA

Hey, sis.

ESTELLE

What are you doing here?

*Luna frowns.*

LUNA

You don't look happy to see me.

ESTELLE

You're not supposed to be here.

LUNA

I'm here. So, obviously I am.

ESTELLE

Well, you need to go. Importa is going to be here any minute.

*Luna scrunches up her face in distaste.*

LUNA

Ugh, I hate her though.

ESTELLE

You haven't even met her.

LUNA

Yeah, but she is always trying to get up in your business. And, we both know, she didn't deserve that promotion over you.

*Estelle gets quiet.*

ESTELLE

That's because she is my friend, and...that's not exactly true.

LUNA

Is she though? Like c'mon, you haven't told her you're planning to visit another universe. You haven't told her about your problems with Terrare.

ESTELLE

First of all, I don't have a problem with Terrare. Second of all, maybe that is why I invited her to breakfast before work.

*Luna laughs in a condescending way.*

LUNA

Yeah right. She would never understand. You know she would use all that information against you.

*Estelle doesn't respond. She just looks off into the distance, contemplating.*

LUNA

Hey! Earth to Estelle.

ESTELLE

Sorry, God, Luna, I just wish you were still alive.

LUNA

Well, you can fix that by going to another universe.

ESTELLE

It won't be the same. You still won't be here, when I come back to this universe.

LUNA

You don't have to come back to this universe. You could live in the universe that you find me in.

*Estelle gives Luna a look.*

ESTELLE

I can't leave my universe. What about Terrare? My job? My friends?

LUNA

What about me? I'm not here. I'm in some other universe, waiting for you to find me.

ESTELLE

Luna, I just can't. I love him. He-I just can't describe it? I don't want to say he completes me, but he balances me out. Understands, somehow, what I'm dealing with.

*Luna scoffs.*

LUNA

Does he understand, though? It seems like he wants you to forget about everything, but him. He proposed to you, in hopes that you would focus on him more. It's selfish. To stroke his ego. Its not because he can't live without you.

ESTELLE

Stop putting words into his mouth. You don't even know him.

LUNA

Oh, I know him as well as you do. And, I know that you stopped thinking about me, as soon as you met him.

ESTELLE

That's not true!

LUNA

But, you're willing to give me up for him? After what happened?

ESTELLE

Luna-

*Estelle cuts herself off because she sees Importa walking into the café. Importa waves and Estelle waves back, causing Luna to look behind her. She looks back to Estelle.*

LUNA

You owe this to me.

*Luna gets up from her seat, which makes Estelle jump up and look at her as she leaves the café.*

IMPORTA

Hey, are you okay?

*Estelle turns around to see Importa sitting in Luna's seat. Estelle sits back down.*

ESTELLE

Yeah, I'm fine.

IMPORTA

Are you sure? Because you seem a little down, lately.

ESTELLE

Has anyone ever told you that you scrutinize things too much? And, then you think about those things too much and you make up a story in your head.

IMPORTA

You're distant. And sad. Well, more distant and sad than usual.

ESTELLE

Are you sure you're not projecting? Isn't the anniversary coming up?

IMPORTA

Don't go there.

ESTELLE

I'm just trying to be a good friend.

IMPORTA

And so am I.

ESTELLE

I'm sorry. I get so confused. You switch between boss and friend, so much, I don't know who I'm talking to.

*Importa gives Estelle a look.*

IMPORTA

Is this about the other Estelle being in charge of the other Importa in that universe?

ESTELLE

God, no. Self-absorbed, much? I don't care that you're the boss.

IMPORTA

Then, what is it?

*Estelle sighs.*

ESTELLE

Well, I guess Terrare and I's relationship has been a little strained lately. I mean for the past month.

IMPORTA

Since we discovered the parallel universe?

ESTELLE

Yeah, just with all that's going on at work, it's like I'm being pulled between two entities with equal force. There's space and...everything it holds and then there is Terrare.

IMPORTA

You just need to find a balance.

ESTELLE

I don't think there is a balance.

IMPORTA

Are you thinking about ending it with Terrare?

ESTELLE

I love him, but he deserves better than someone who is only half there.

IMPORTA

Maybe you think you don't deserve him.

ESTELLE

Maybe.

*It is silent for a moment. Estelle takes a sip of her water.*

IMPORTA

Estelle?

ESTELLE

What?

IMPORTA

I've noticed that some materials have been missing.

*Estelle goes a little rigid at that. She looks at Importa.*



ESTELLE

From what?

IMPORTA

The wormhole devices. That materials to make them-some are missing.

ESTELLE

Are you turning back into a boss, now? I thought this was a friendship outing.

IMPORTA

I know Estelle, I'm not dumb.

ESTELLE

What exactly do you know?

IMPORTA

Est-

ESTELLE

If you were ever really my friend, you'll stop. Right now.

*There is a silence, as Estelle stands up.*

ESTELLE

I'm going to head to work. Don't want to be late.

*Estelle gets up from the table and walks out of the café, without a word, leaving Importa behind.*

## SCENE 8

*Estelle is in the basement of her and Terrare's house. It is her workshop. It is almost an exact replica of the lab. She has a computer hooked up to a huge machine next to the desk. In the middle of the workshop is a larger basin than the one in the lab. It is not fogging, as there is no liquid nitrogen bath in it. Estelle is at a table in the workshop, working on a wormhole device that looks big enough that a human could travel through it. Estelle tinkers with the device for a couple seconds, when, suddenly a suit appears on stage with a plop that startles Estelle. Estelle goes to investigate the sound, and she finds the protective suit that will allow her to travel through a wormhole. She looks almost giddy when she picks up the suit. It looks like a slimmer astronaut suit. Estelle looks around the workshop.*

ESTELLE

Thank you, Estelle. I will-

Estelle! TERRARE

Shit! ESTELLE

Where are you? TERRARE

*Estelle quickly runs to the desk. She throws the suit under the desk and pulls out a tarp. She throws it over the wormhole device and rushes back to the computer. She pretends to be engrossed in whatever is on the computer. Terrare bursts in. Tired after a long day, but still excited to see Estelle.*

You would not believe the day I had! TERRARE

*Estelle looks up from the computer and looks at Terrare. She smiles.*

Hey, T. ESTELLE

TERRARE  
I'm sorry I'm home late. It's just today was legit crazy. One of my clients is a free agent, and obviously he wants to get the most money. He had a great season, having an awesome average for triple-doubles. So, I got him into a bidding war between the Lakers and the Sixers. It was a great day, just long.

That sounds exciting. ESTELLE

Yeah. TERRARE

*Estelle goes back to looking at the computer.*

TERRARE  
I might even get a promotion if I get the max from one of the teams.

*Estelle does not look up from the computer.*

That's great, T. ESTELLE

*There is a silence. Maybe Terrare is trying to figure out what to say. He does not want to leave her alone yet.*

TERRARE

Uh, how was your day, babe?

ESTELLE

It wasn't too horrible.

TERRARE

Have you guys found anything new about the parallel universes?

*Estelle looks up at Terrare. She frowns.*

ESTELLE

Nothing, really new. Just a bunch of mumbo-jumbo data. It's a little hard to explain.

TERRARE

I still can't get over how there's another you out there.

*Estelle laughs.*

ESTELLE

I mean technically there are infinite amounts of mes out there. And yous.

TERRARE

But, to interact with them. Seems mind blowing. Does the other Estelle act the same way as you?

ESTELLE

Why the sudden interest? You're not thinking of leaving me for her, are you?

TERRARE

No, of course not!

*Estelle shakes her head and goes back to the computer. Terrare looks around the workshop, desperate to talk to Estelle. He spots the tarp covering the wormhole. He gestures to it.*

TERRARE

You, uh, working on something big down here.

*Estelle glances up, as cool as a cucumber.*

ESTELLE

Oh, just something Importa wants me doing in my spare time to help speed along the work days.

*Estelle looks back at her computer.*

TERRARE

Gotcha. Are you doing okay?

ESTELLE

Yeah, I'm doing well.

TERRARE

It's just-you've seemed a little sad, lately. This is the most we've talked in a week, maybe two.

ESTELLE

You know work has been crazy. I've had to take it home with me.

TERRARE

I get that, it's-

ESTELLE

Look, I can't be having the same fight over and over again. I'm getting whiplash from being pulled between you and work. Work won't ease up, so it'd be nice if you would. Once things die down, it will be better, but until, then I don't know what else I can tell you.

TERRARE

I'm just worried about you.

ESTELLE

Well, there's no reason to be.

*Terrare stays silent for a moment, choosing his words carefully.*

TERRARE

Is this about Luna?

*Estelle jerks her head away from the computer, mouth in a hard line.*

ESTELLE

Not everything is about Luna

TERRARE

I know-

ESTELLE

What do you want from me?

TERRARE

What?

ESTELLE

Why are you still here? If I focus on work too much, why are you still here?

TERRARE

Are you breaking up with me?

ESTELLE

No, but maybe you should break up with me.

TERRARE

Jesus Christ, are you kidding me? I just proposed to you.

ESTELLE

In hopes that I wouldn't be at work so much.

TERRARE

That's not true.

ESTELLE

It is, and you know it.

TERRARE

I'm just trying to get my girlfriend back.

ESTELLE

This is me! This has always been me. I've always been the girl with the dead sister, who works too late, hoping that she's so tired she won't see said dead sister! What changed? Because I don't think I have.

TERRARE

I thought I could fix you!

ESTELLE

Fix me?

TERRARE

I didn't mean it like that.

ESTELLE

What did you mean, then? Change? Well, guess what, Terrare, people don't change. I will always be like this.

TERRARE

Just stop trying to push me away.

*Estelle doesn't answer. She gets up from her seat and heads out of the workshop.*

TERRARE

Where are you going?

ESTELLE

To bed. I'm tired of fighting.

## SCENE 9

*Estelle and Importa are in the lab. They are at the table, working on another wormhole device. It is slightly bigger than the first wormhole, but it is definitely smaller than the one Estelle was working on in her workshop. Importa finishes what she is doing, then walks away from the device.*

IMPORTA

Okay, I think I'm done for tonight. I want to go home, and relax, and watch T.V.

ESTELLE

Sounds like fun. I think I'm going to do a little over time.

IMPORTA

We already did a little over time.

ESTELLE

Then, I'm going to do double over time.

IMPORTA

Aren't you even a little bit tired? You've done over time for these past two days.

ESTELLE

Yeah, I'm good. No worries here.

IMPORTA

How does Terrare feel about all this over time?

ESTELLE

I don't think that is any of your business.

IMPORTA

It just isn't healthy to have such laser focus on one thing. You can't put all your energy into your work and expect your other relationships to be fine.

*Estelle ignores Importa.*

IMPORTA

Look, I'm just trying to make sure you're okay.

*Estelle throws all her tools down.*

ESTELLE

I'm fine!

*Importa looks surprised at the outburst.*

IMPORTA

Okay.

ESTELLE

Why is everyone suddenly asking me if I'm okay?

IMPORTA

It's not suddenly, and it's just because we care.

ESTELLE

Well, it'd be nice if you all would stop.

*Importa does not know what to say.*

IMPORTA

Okay. Well, I'm going to go. Let me know if you need anything.

*Importa begins to walk out of the lab.*

IMPORTA

Are you sure you don't need to talk about anything? There's nothing you want to tell me.

ESTELLE

God, no. If you're going to leave, then leave. If not, then help me with this device.

IMPORTA

Just...think, okay? Think about what you are doing.

*Estelle pointedly ignores Importa. Importa can't do anything else, but leave, so she does. Estelle looks up to watch Importa leave. As soon as she's out of the lab, Estelle starts moving.*

ESTELLE

Finally.

*Estelle hurries to the computer in the lab and quickly pulls up the contact list. She selects: Parallel Universe 1-Estelle. The screen says connecting once again, and Estelle runs to the screen. She looks nervous, maybe biting her lip or nails. Estelle 1 pops up on the screen. She smiles.*

ESTELLE 1

Hey, how are you doing?

ESTELLE

I'm good, I'm good. Uh, so did you find a universe with Luna?

ESTELLE 1

What? No hi or how are you?

*Estelle gives Estelle 1 a look.*

ESTELLE 1

All business, I see.

ESTELLE

You're the one that keeps on saying that this needs to be secret, so I'm just trying to move this along as fast as possible.

*Estelle 1 smirks.*

ESTELLE 1

I see the smart-ass in you comes out when you're annoyed, much like me.

ESTELLE

Can you just please let me know. I need to get home soon. I can't have another fight with Terrare.

ESTELLE 1

Why don't you just tell him what you're doing. I'm sure he will understand.

ESTELLE

Because, this way he won't try to stop me. Maybe he will hate me enough, that I won't feel bad about leaving him.

ESTELLE 1

But, you'll be back. You're just visiting. Wait-

ESTELLE

Yeah, I'm just visiting.

ESTELLE 1

No. No, you're planning to leave your universe.

ESTELLE

So, what if I am? It doesn't change our arrangement, does it?



*Estelle 1 contemplates.*

ESTELLE 1

No, I still want to see Terrare. Now to answer your question, I found an Estelle.

ESTELLE

Is Luna alive?

ESTELLE 1

I don't know.

ESTELLE

You don't know. What do you mean you don't know?

ESTELLE 1

I mean exactly that. I'm trying to do this as discreetly as possible, so I don't get caught. I sent out a coded message to many random universes for Estelles to contact me because of an emergency. The first Estelle to respond is from Universe 70,509.

ESTELLE

Wow, I mean, you know, theoretically we should know that many universes exist, but hearing it put into real words...it just-makes you feel small.

ESTELLE 1

Yeah.

*Estelle is quiet for a couple of seconds.*

ESTELLE 1

Okay, you ready for me to patch you through?

ESTELLE

Yeah, yeah, go ahead.

ESTELLE 1

Alright, good luck!

*Estelle 1 presses a button on her computer, and the screen goes dark, then the connecting symbol pops up again.*

ESTELLE

Okay, no big deal. This is normal. I've talked to another Estelle before. This is just Estelle 70,509. Okay, that's a big deal

*Estelle 70,509 pops up on the screen. She, again, looks slightly different from both Estelle and Estelle 1. Her face is all business.*

ESTELLE 70,509

Estelle? What's the emergency?

ESTELLE

I-

ESTELLE 70,509

Wait, You're not Estelle 1. You're coming up as from Universe 105,678. I thought Estelle 1 was the one who said there was an emergency.

ESTELLE

Wait, what? Never mind, there is no emergency. We just needed as many Estelles to respond as fast as possible.

ESTELLE 70,509

Why?

ESTELLE

I'm trying to fi-

ESTELLE 70,509

I don't have time for this. I-its Luna's first recital-god-Terrare's going to so fuc-

ESTELLE

Wait! Wait. Luna's still alive there?

ESTELLE 70, 509

Of course, she is. And it's her first ballet performance tonight, and I'm missing it for a non-emergency.

ESTELLE

Luna dances?

*Realization dawns on the other Estelle's face.*

ESTELLE 70,509

Luna is my daughter.

*Estelle's face falls.*

ESTELLE

Your daughter?

ESTELLE 70,509

Yeah, I named her after my sister.

*Estelle nods in defeat.*

ESTELLE

Who is dead.

ESTELLE 70,509

Yeah.

*Estelle remains quiet, trying to keep it together.*

ESTELLE 70,509

It gets better. I know you're trying to find her. Thought about it myself, at first, but then little Luna came into my life.

ESTELLE

I don't have a little Luna. I have nothing!

*Estelle is breathing hard, almost hyperventilating. She heads toward the computer.*

ESTELLE 70,509

That's not true. I know it's hard. I've been there.

*Estelle arrives at the computer.*

ESTELLE

You don't know anything.

ESTELLE 70,509

I do. I do. What you're doing, it doesn't lessen the pain. Moving on do-

*Estelle shuts down the connection. Everything she has been holding in lets out. She's crying if it feels right. All of this happens for an uncomfortable amount of time.*

## SCENE 10

*Terrare is asleep on the couch in the living room at his and Estelle's house. A book is on his chest. A couple of seconds later, a door slamming is heard. It startles Terrare awake, and the book falls off his chest to the floor. He's rubbing his eyes, as Estelle walks in. She looks terrible, upset, obvious she's been crying. Terrare immediately jumps up, and pulls her into a hug, no questions asked. He comforts her, then pulls her to the couch.*

ESTELLE

I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

*Estelle pulls a little bit away from Terrare, embarrassed at the emotion. Terrare caresses her face.*

TERRARE

There's no reason to be sorry.

*Estelle nods, but she doesn't say anything.*

TERRARE

You don't have to tell me what's wrong. Maybe you don't want to talk about it right now, but I'm always here. For you. Always. No matter the stupid fights. And if you can't talk to me...maybe you can see someone.

ESTELLE

What? Like a therapist?

TERRARE

Yeah. There's nothing wrong with seeing a therapist.

ESTELLE

I know, but I don't need one.

TERRARE

Yeah, but it's always an option.

*There's a silence before Estelle speaks.*

ESTELLE

I saw someone that reminded of Luna.

*Terrare remains silent, but he grabs Estelle's hand, kisses it maybe. Estelle gives a rueful smile.*

ESTELLE

Actually, a lot has been reminding me of Luna. Like she's around, constantly.

TERRARE

Maybe, she is around you, you never know.

*Estelle laughs.*

ESTELLE

You know I don't believe in that.

TERRARE

Just because you don't believe in it, doesn't mean it's not real.

*Estelle doesn't respond to that, just gets closer to Terrare. Leans her head on his shoulder.*

ESTELLE

I don't know how to make it go away.

TERRARE

Do you actually want it to go away, though?

ESTELLE

What do you mean?

TERRARE

What I mean is-

*Terrare pauses to gather his thoughts. It's important that he words this the right way.*

TERRARE

I'm not judging. People take different times to heal. There is no timeline on grief, and you, just seem like you're holding on for dear life. Like you're on a rollercoaster and there's nothing, no seat belt, no safety bar, to hold you to the cart, but your hands gripping the seat, straining your fingers. And I can't reach you because the rollercoaster's endless and I'm on the ground. You can't hear me over your screams no matter how loud I am. I wish you'd realize if you let go, you'd be fine. I'd be there to catch you, or maybe you don't need me. You'd still land on your two feet. No scratches. That's how strong you are.

ESTELLE

Damn, that was poetic.

*Terrare chuckles.*

TERRARE

We all have our talents.

ESTELLE

It's hard to let go.

TERRARE

Like I said, there's no timeline. I'll always be here.

ESTELLE

I love you. You know that, right? Even if I don't show it enough, I do, I really do.

TERRARE

Yeah, I know, I love you too.

*There is a comfortable silence. Despite all the fighting, when it's calm and good, it's good between them.*

ESTELLE

Okay, okay, my turn. I got one. My turn to be poetic.

TERRARE

Oh, so we're turning this into a competition now, are we?

ESTELLE

Yes, we are, and mine will be better.

TERRARE

It doesn't count if you're trying to be poetic. It just becomes pretentious. Not authentic.

*Estelle laughs.*

ESTELLE

Oh, shut up.

TERRARE

Alright, then go ahead, prove me wrong.

ESTELLE

Gladly.

*There is an extended silence, and Terrare laughs.*

ESTELLE

Sshhh.

TERRARE

Okay, okay.

ESTELLE

So, there are an infinite number of universes out there. All full of life. Of planets just like ours with different versions of everyone on this planet. It's theorized that all these universes happened because of a big bang. There was an original big bang, and that set off an infinite number of big bangs. Some are just happening, but time does not really exist, so if we visited them, they would be at the exact time we are right now. In each of these universes there is just enough dark matter to keep pushing things away from each other in them. The perfect amount of dark matter to create life in them where mostly the same people interact. Like everything is meant to be.

TERRARE ...

It's like fate, pre-destined.

ESTELLE

Kind of, some things are the same and some are wildly different. I don't even really understand it all. It's all just going to be theories because there is not enough time to visit them all and see what's different and what's the same.

TERRARE

I thought you said time doesn't exist.

ESTELLE

It does for us.

TERRARE

Kind of sucks. Would be cool to travel in space indefinitely.

ESTELLE

You know what's sad though?

TERRARE

What?

ESTELLE

Every universe out there perfectly crafted to make life, has a counterpart. Some of the big bangs didn't create enough dark matter. So, there was an explosion that pushed all the material in the universe out, but it collapsed back in on itself. No chance for life to happen. It's just empty and lonely and dark, and it's hard to think about. That easily could have been our universe.

TERRARE

It's kind of like when a star explodes and collapses in on itself.

ESTELLE

Yeah. Sometimes I feel like that.

TERRARE

Like what?

ESTELLE

Like I have flowers inside me. Beautiful flowers full of life. And then, I'm collapsing in on myself. Like I'm suffocating and I can't breathe. Everything just feels so heavy, and I don't know what to do. And all the flowers are dying, and I can't save them. I want to save them, but I don't know how without...

*Estelle does not continue, and Terrare doesn't know what to say.*

TERRARE

Estelle, I-

ESTELLE

I can't be fixed, T.

TERRARE

I should have chosen my words better. You don't need to be fixed. I just want to be here to help.

ESTELLE

You should have left a long time ago.

TERRARE

Well, guess what? You don't get to decide for me.

*There is silence, not exactly comfortable or uncomfortable.*

ESTELLE

You want to come into work with me?

TERRARE

What?

ESTELLE

Work. So, you can see what I do.

TERRARE

I know what you do.

ESTELLE

But seeing it, it's different. A wormhole open is beautiful. Will you come see it?

TERRARE

Yeah, yeah, I will.

## SCENE 11

*Estelle is in the lab in front of the screen. Next to her is Luna. Again, Estelle tries to ignore her. On the screen already is Estelle 500,651,888. Again, she's slightly different than all the previous Estelles.*

ESTELLE

So, Luna's still alive?

ESTELLE 500,651,888

Yeah. We got into almost the same crash you just described. Luna didn't get killed on impact, but she's paralyzed from the waist down.



LUNA

Damn. At least, I survived though. I think I'd rather be alive than dead. Actually, I know that.

ESTELLE

Oh my god.

ESTELLE 500,651,888

Yeah, it was really hard for a while. Still is.

ESTELLE

Do you think-maybe you could bring her to your work, and we can meet.

LUNA

I can't wait to meet another Luna. This is so cool.

ESTELLE 500,651,888

Uh, how close were you and Luna?

LUNA

That's a stupid question. She should know, shouldn't she.

ESTELLE

We practically lived in each other's back pockets. I have to see her again.

ESTELLE 500,651,888

Even before the crash Luna and I weren't close.

LUNA

That's not possible. When I was alive, I absolutely adored you.

ESTELLE

What?

ESTELLE 500,651,888

Don't act so surprised. We may be the same person, but we didn't make the same decisions.

LUNA

I call bullshit.

ESTELLE

I just can't imagine a world where Luna and I didn't get along.

ESTELLE 500,651,888

Well, if you want to get technical, there are probably billions. We just were too different. She was this outgoing girl, focused on partying. And I was her nerdy older, sometimes embarrassing sister.

LUNA

What is she talking about? I loved that you were a science nerd.

ESTELLE

But, we are that different here, and we get along.

ESTELLE 500,651,888

I honestly don't know. It makes me wonder what I did wrong here to make her hate me.

LUNA

I'm sure that Luna doesn't hate her. I don't even hate you now.

ESTELLE

I'm sure Luna doesn't hate you.

ESTELLE 500,651,888

She's barely talked to me, since the accident.

LUNA

Maybe she works too much, and that relationship suffers, like yours and Terrare's.

*Estelle glares at Luna, and she laughs.*

ESTELLE

So, there's no chance she would come?

ESTELLE 500,651,888

No. If there was, I would bring her. Even though I don't see her, I can't imagine if she was dead. I would do what I could to help you with-closure or whatever you need.

LUNA

We have to keep searching.

ESTELLE

Well, thanks for taking the time to talk to me.

*Estelle walks to the computer in the lab.*

ESTELLE 500,651,888

Oh, it's nothing. I wish I could have done more. Given you the exact right universe.

LUNA

You should tell her to talk to Luna. She should take advantage of what she has, like you are doing.

ESTELLE

Estelle?

ESTELLE 500,651,888

Yeah?

ESTELLE

Don't give up on Luna.

*Estelle 500,651,888 smiles sadly and waves.*

ESTELLE 500,651,888

Bye.

*Estelle exits out of the video chat.*

LUNA

Well, that kinda sucked.

ESTELLE

Yeah, it did.

LUNA

Ugh, when are we going to find a universe with a me that's alive, and also wants to talk to you?

ESTELLE

I don't know. Estelle I said it could take a long time.

LUNA

I feel like we are running out of time. You need to do this for me.

ESTELLE

I know, I know.

*Suddenly Importa walks into the lab.*

LUNA

Gross, look who it is.

ESTELLE

Importa.

IMPORTA

Nova wants us in her office.

ESTELLE

What? Why?

IMPORTA

Something about a phone call from the president, and her pension being threatened. Now, come on.

*Importa walks out of the lab, and Estelle follows her, leaving Luna behind.*

## SCENE 12

*There is an empty hallway on stage. Suddenly, Estelle storms on, followed shortly by Importa.*

ESTELLE

I can't believe you.

IMPORTA

Me? You can't believe me? I can't believe you.

ESTELLE

So much for being my best friend, right? You're going to make me lose my job.

IMPORTA

None of this is my fault.

ESTELLE

My God, I'm not an idiot. I know you submitted that anonymous tip. You've been hinting at me that you've known something for a while.

IMPORTA

I didn't make you do anything. You chose to do...everything you're doing

ESTELLE

Why didn't you come to me?

IMPORTA

I tried! You ignored me every time.

ESTELLE

I guess, I expected you to be a friend.

IMPORTA

I am a friend. I didn't tell them it was you that stole the parts for the wormhole. I just want to know why. Why are you doing it? What is going on?

ESTELLE

Ever since you got that promotion, everything has changed. You haven't really been there for me.

IMPORTA

I knew this was the problem. You're jealous I got the job over you.

ESTELLE

I wasn't jealous. Maybe a little bitter, but not jealous.

IMPORTA

What is the problem, then?

ESTELLE

You act like I wasn't there for you, and that I didn't help you or cover for you. Lie to Nova for you. You ignore that by overcompensating in your position. It's why you weren't my friend for the first couple months you got the job.

IMPORTA

That's not true.

ESTELLE

It's not like I expected anything back. We were friends, and I was just being friend. All I wanted was a friend back.

IMPORTA

Estelle, what I went through, I couldn't help it. I'm thankful you did what you did, but it's not the same as what you are doing.

ESTELLE

You don't know what I'm going through.

IMPORTA

Then, help me understand. Just talk to me.

ESTELLE

How can I?

IMPORTA

As supervisor, I'm obligated to report that I know it was you who stole the parts. As your friend, I'm trying to give you the benefit of the doubt. If you want me to act like a friend, then you have to confide in me like a friend.

ESTELLE

What? So, you can judge it to be important enough to let my transgression slide?

IMPORTA

You can tell me or not. It's up to you, but if you don't tell me, I'll assume you did everything.

ESTELLE

Okay, okay

*Estelle takes a deep breath.*

ESTELLE

My sister, Luna, she died. And...it was my fault. I need to fix it, apologize, see her, do whatever I can to make up for it.

IMPORTA

Oh. I'm so sorry Estelle...but what does this have to do with stealing the materials?

ESTELLE

I need to see her. I need to, no matter what it takes. So, I'm building a wormhole that I can travel through.

IMPORTA

That's why you asked the other Estelle if Luna was still alive there.

ESTELLE

Yes.

IMPORTA

But, she doesn't even exist there.

ESTELLE

Correct.

IMPORTA

Then, why are you still building the wormhole.

*Estelle sighs.*

ESTELLE

I've been talking to other Estelles.

IMPORTA

What?

ESTELLE

From other universes. Searching for a Luna I can talk to.

IMPORTA

And Estelle 1 is helping you out.

ESTELLE

Yeah, she is.

IMPORTA

That's illegal. For both of you. Why is she helping you out?

ESTELLE

We made a deal.

*Importa nods taking all this information in.*

IMPORTA

But, you're building a wormhole, so you obviously you want to do more than talk over a screen.

ESTELLE

I want to be able to see her in person. That's why I have to find a Luna, a universe, where we have the same relationship and where I'm not there.

IMPORTA

Wait, wait. You're not just planning to leave to visit? You're planning to leave forever?

ESTELLE

Probably.

IMPORTA

Estelle-you can't do that.

ESTELLE

Why can't I? I'm not happy here! Why can't I go to a different universe to fix everything that's wrong with me.

IMPORTA

That's dangerous.

ESTELLE

It's not really all that dangerous. Space travel is inherently dangerous. It's always going to be. But all of our wormholes have worked successfully. There's no reason to think that a bigger one won't.

IMPORTA

We haven't tested live subjects. Also, you don't have a spacesuit to protect yourself.

ESTELLE

Estelle I gave me a protective suit that they use to travel through wormholes. And-I'll be the tested live subject. Once I get to the universe, I'll send all the information back, and you guys will know humans can travel safely through man-made wormholes

IMPORTA

Think of all you're leaving behind.

ESTELLE

Importa-I have to do this. Please, please, don't tell Nova.

*Importa just looks at Estelle.*

### SCENE 13

*Estelle is in her workshop. She is carrying her wormhole device to the basin, which is fogging now. She sets the device in the basin, then connects the electricity generator to the wormhole. She pulls the lever. The lights should be exactly like the last time the wormhole was open. Estelle is ecstatic, basking in the lights and stars. Maybe even she laughs. After a couple of seconds, she reluctantly turns the device off. She disconnects the electricity generator from the wormhole. Estelle almost looks content, at least the most content she has been in the whole play. She goes toward the desk and pulls out the tarp from under it. She throws it over the wormhole still in the basin. She takes one last look around the workshop, smiles, and sprints out of the room.*

### SCENE 14

*Estelle and Terrare walk into the lab. All the lights are off, so Estelle quickly switches them on. Terrare looks slightly uncomfortable.*

TERRARE

Are you sure we should be here? The hallways were all completely empty.

ESTELLE

Yeah, it's fine.

TERRARE

Then, why are we here in the dead of night?

*Estelle walks over to the computer and turns it on. Estelle gives Terrare a smile.*

ESTELLE

Because I've got a surprise for you.

*Terrare laughs.*

TERRARE



It's not a surprise if I know what it is.

ESTELLE

It is because I'll show you a wormhole another time. Tonight, you're going to meet Estelle 1.

*Estelle opens the video chat and selects: Parallel World 1-Estelle. The big screen says connecting.*

TERRARE

No way!

ESTELLE

Yes way! Now get ready.

*Estelle grabs Terrare and brings him in front of the screen.*

TERRARE

I'm a little nervous. Is that normal?

ESTELLE

Totally, but don't be nervous. She's excited to see you.

*Estelle 1 pops on screen. She registers Estelle first, then Terrare. She pauses like she can't believe it. Then, she starts crying. Terrare looks at Estelle quizzically.*

ESTELLE 1

I'm sorry. It's just been so long.

TERRARE

It's okay.

*Estelle 1 takes a couple of seconds to calm herself.*

ESTELLE 1

It's so great to finally see you again.

TERRARE

Again?

ESTELLE 1

Estelle didn't tell you?

*Terrare glances at Estelle.*

TERRARE

No, she didn't tell me.

ESTELLE 1

The Terrare in my universe died. And I just wanted to see him-or someone that looks exactly like him-one more time. I hope that's not too weird for you.

*Terrare smiles genuinely.*

TERRARE

It's a little weird, but I don't mind.

ESTELLE 1

I just-want to say sorry.

TERRARE

Sorry for what?

ESTELLE 1

Sorry for everything. For working all the time. Not being there for you when you were actually here. For not-for causing your death.

*Estelle 1 almost breaks down again. Terrare goes closer to the screen, hesitates to touch it.*

TERRARE

I'm sure he forgives you for everything. And I'm sure he doesn't blame you for his death.

ESTELLE 1

Thank you.

TERRARE

Now all you have to do forgive yourself.

*Both Estelle and Estelle 1 are looking at Terrare.*

ESTELLE 1

Estelle's so lucky.

TERRARE

No, I'm the lucky one.

*Estelle 1 looks at Estelle, almost as if to say sorry.*

ESTELLE 1

You deserve someone that will stay.

TERRARE

What?

ESTELLE 1

Estelle's planning to lea-

*Estelle 1 is cut off by Estelle, who is now at the computer. She closed down the video chat.*

TERRARE

What is she talking about?

ESTELLE

Nothing. She didn't say anything.

TERRARE

Tell me the truth.

ESTELLE

That is the truth.

TERRARE

Look me in the eye and tell me you're not leaving.

*Estelle doesn't say anything. Terrare can't believe it.*

TERRARE

You're-you're leaving? What-where are- why?

ESTELLE

Luna.

TERRARE

You're going to another universe.

*It's not a question, but Estelle nods.*

TERRARE

To be with another Luna.

ESTELLE

Yeah.

TERRARE

Are you ever going to come back?

*Estelle stays silent, not wanting to answer that.*

TERRARE

What about me? You just don't care.

ESTELLE

Of course, I care.

TERRARE

Not enough to stay apparently.

ESTELLE

T, don't-

TERRARE

Don't what? All I'm doing is saying the truth. I'm not enough to make you stay. To make you happy.

ESTELLE

I need to do this. To make things right with Luna. It has nothing to do with you. It's not about you.

*Terrare laughs bitterly.*

TERRARE

It never is.

ESTELLE

Terrare-

TERRARE

Were you going to tell me, or were you just going to up and leave? Without a single word?

ESTELLE

I would never do that.

TERRARE

You see, I wouldn't know. I feel like I don't even know you anymore. We've barely talked...is that why?

ESTELLE

I just didn't know how-what to say.

TERRARE

I think I'm going to go. Yeah, I think that's a good idea.

ESTELLE

Okay, I'll come with you.

TERRARE

No, I'm not going home.

ESTELLE

Where are you going?

TERRARE

I don't know. Any where's better than here.

ESTELLE

I'm sorry, Terrare.

TERRARE

I think...we are done here. Like I can't do this anymore.

ESTELLE

Please don't do this. Don't leave like this.

TERRARE

Why? Isn't this what you wanted? You made this decision really easy. I'm leaving. I'm not just going to sit around and watch you leave this universe, this life, like I don't matter at all. Possibly killing yourself over a shadow of your sister... I can't watch it.

*Terrare stalks out of the lab.*

ESTELLE

Terrare!

*He doesn't answer or come back. Estelle is left all alone.*

## SCENE 15

*Estelle is standing in front of the big screen in the lab. It says connecting. She bites her nails or maybe she taps her foot impatiently. After a couple of seconds, much longer than the previous times, Estelle 1 pops on the screen. She looks slightly disheveled compared to what she's looked like before. Dark bags are definitely under her eyes. She looks almost relieved.*

ESTELLE 1

Estelle-

ESTELLE

I was afraid you weren't going to answer.

ESTELLE 1

Of course, I was.

ESTELLE

Just-you told Terrare-I thought it meant you didn't want to help anymore. Please tell me you have another parallel universe.

ESTELLE 1

I do, but I told Terrare for a reason. I don't think you should leave your universe.

ESTELLE

Why?

ESTELLE 1

Because you belong in your universe.

ESTELLE

You guys travel to different universes all the time!

ESTELLE 1

Yeah, but we never plan to stay. We haven't studied the effects of people staying long term in a different universe.

ESTELLE

I'd be a willing test subject!

ESTELLE 1

I'm sorry, Estelle. I don't think it's a good idea.

*Estelle is silent for a moment and Luna walks in. Estelle stares at her until she gets right next to her. Luna doesn't say anything.*

ESTELLE

Were you ever going to help us?

ESTELLE 1

I was when I thought you were just visiting. I had to think on you going there forever. There could be so many ramifications.

ESTELLE

So, what? You get what you need. Your closure. A chance to do whatever you need to do with Terrare, and we get nothing? That doesn't seem fair.

ESTELLE 1

I wasn't ever planning on leaving. You were.

ESTELLE

So, you won't even let me try to meet and talk to a Luna.

ESTELLE 1

You're smart. If you know what universe Luna was in, you'd figure out a way to get there. Especially since I already gave you that suit.

LUNA

You have to convince her somehow.

ESTELLE 1

I hope you can forgive me.

LUNA

You have to be able to see me again. Actually see me.

ESTELLE 1

I mean you're practically me. I care, and I want to do what's best for you.

*Estelle laughs.*

ESTELLE

You don't know what's best for me.

LUNA

You owe me.

ESTELLE 1

I'm just trying to do the right thing here.

*There is a silence.*

ESTELLE

You have to let me keep doing this.

ESTELLE 1

Estelle-

ESTELLE

I'll tell.

ESTELLE 1

What?

ESTELLE

I'll contact your Nova and let her know what you are doing.

ESTELLE 1

Really? Really? We are going there?

ESTELLE

I didn't force us to go there.

ESTELLE 1

You realize that if you report me, then you get into trouble too.

LUNA

None of that matters.

ESTELLE

I don't care. I've lost everything. Luna. Terrare. There's nothing in this universe left for me.

ESTELLE 1

But, I have things to lose. What happens if you disappear? I'll definitely get questioned.

LUNA

I think it is working.

ESTELLE

Would you rather definitely lose your job, or just a slight chance you might lose your job?

*Estelle 1 doesn't reply, and she disappears from the screen. Connecting pops up on it again, and Estelle breathes a sigh of relief.*

## SCENE 16

*Terrare sits in the same café he that Estelle and Importa were in before. He sips on a cup of coffee. After a couple of moments, Importa strolls in. She walks to Terrare.*

IMPORTA

Hey...

*Terrare looks up.*

TERRARE

Hello.

*Importa hesitates, but she ends up sitting down awkwardly. She doesn't say anything.*

TERRARE

Um, no offense, but I'm on my lunch break, so I only have so long to talk.



Its-just-I work with Estelle. IMPORTA

I know. You said that in your message. TERRARE

She needs you. IMPORTA

She's made it very clear that she doesn't need me. Or want me for that matter. TERRARE

You don't understand what's happening. IMPORTA

I do actually. Estelle 1 spilled the beans. TERRARE

Of course, she took you to see her. IMPORTA

Yeah, and she's planning to leave. To another universe. Didn't even ask me to go with her. TERRARE

Would you have gone? IMPORTA

That's not the point. TERRARE

*Importa nods.*

I know it hurts. It hurts me to see what she's doing. You love her and she loves you more than anything. You can get her to stop. IMPORTA

Did she tell you we aren't together anymore? I'm not living with her. TERRARE

She's ignoring me. IMPORTA

Sounds familiar. TERRARE

IMPORTA

It doesn't matter. You still have to try.

TERRARE

Why is it my job to make sure she's okay? When she doesn't put the effort back...I can't keep giving it. It's just draining.

IMPORTA

She might get into real trouble. There is someone suspected of stealing materials to build a wormhole.

TERRARE

Is there evidence?

IMPORTA

I'm not sure.

TERRARE

Then, she will probably be fine. There's nothing we can do.

IMPORTA

How can you be so lax about this and uncaring? You were in love Estelle.

*Terrare shoots up from his chair.*

TERRARE

Look-I've tried-I've tried, and I'm running on empty now. I don't know how much more I can give before nothing's left. Nothing's worked.

*Importa gets up from her chair too.*

IMPORTA

You have to try.

*Terrare sighs.*

TERRARE

Why do you care so much?

IMPORTA

Because she is a good friend of mine.

TERRARE

Yet, I haven't met you. You've been working with her a little longer than I've known her. Why is that?

IMPORTA

I don't know. She just likes to keep people at arm's length.

TERRARE

Exactly. I'm tired of putting in the extra effort. Aren't you?

IMPORTA

I owe her.

TERRARE

What do you mean?

IMPORTA

My mom died a couple of years back.

TERRARE

I'm sorry for your loss.

IMPORTA

I'm relatively okay now, but I was a mess the first year. I would go out and drink heavily most nights. Sometimes I wouldn't show up to work at all, and other times I would show up hungover. Estelle covered for me most of the time, even though she didn't know what was wrong. She just knew there was something.

TERRARE

Oh.

IMPORTA

Then, she would ask me to hang out outside of work, which she had never done before. Movies, bowling even. Activities that didn't involve drinking. She even encouraged me to go get help.

*Importa might have some tears in her eyes.*

TERRARE

Importa...

IMPORTA

Somehow, she knew what I was going through, which knowing what I know now, she kind of did.

TERRARE

I don't think I'm meant to save her, or anyone for that matter.

IMPORTA

I don't know what to tell you. All I know, is that she was there when I really needed her.

*Importa walks out of the café, leaving Terrare there all alone.*

## SCENE 17

*Estelle is at the computer in the lab. She opens up the video chat and clicks Parallel World 1-Estelle. She runs to the big screen, which says connecting. It connects almost immediately, and Estelle 1 pops on the screen. All business. No smiles.*

ESTELLE 1

You ready?

ESTELLE

More than.

ESTELLE 1

Okay.

*Estelle 1 presses a button on her keyboard. The screen goes dark and says connecting once again. After a couple of moments, someone pops up on the screen. It's not another Estelle, its Luna 878,500,616. They both gasp at the same time.*

ESTELLE

Oh my god!

*Estelle starts crying, from shock and pent up emotion.*

LUNA 878,500,616

Oh no, don't cry, don't cry. This is happy moment.

ESTELLE

What-what-how?

LUNA 878,500,616

When you died here, I was down for months. Then, I went to your room and found all these books about parallel universes, and...knew that's how I was going to find you. I changed my whole life for this moment.

ESTELLE

You became a physicist?

*Luna smiles.*

LUNA 878,500,616

I was just following your footsteps.

ESTELLE

I can't believe it. I feel like I'm imagining it again.

*Importa walks into the lab. Estelle and Luna 878,500,616 don't see her. They walk over to the computer.*

LUNA 878,500,616

It's real. I'm real.

ESTELLE

Lu-

*Estelle cuts off because all the sudden the screen goes dark.*

ESTELLE

What? No, no, no!

*She turns around to the computer and sees Importa. Everything is deadly silent as she takes in what's happening. Her eyes linger on Importa.*

ESTELLE

Really?

IMPORTA

Nova wants you gone immediately.

ESTELLE

You told her.

IMPORTA

No! She doesn't know you stole the parts. She does know you've been talking to other parallel worlds.

ESTELLE

How?

IMPORTA

She set up a camera in here.

ESTELLE

Probably because of the tip. God, Importa!

IMPORTA

I'm sorry, Estelle. I wasn't trying to get you fired. I just wanted to make sure you were okay, and it went too far.

ESTELLE

She was there! She was really there, and not just...I have to see her. I can't believe you shut her off.

IMPORTA

Est-

ESTELLE

Nova, right? Is she firing me?

*Importa remains silent.*

ESTELLE

I'm going to leave, either way. So, just tell me.

IMPORTA

The president wants answers on the stolen parts. Nova thinks you talking parallel worlds proves you could be the culprit of that too. So, yes, you're fired.

ESTELLE

Okay.

*There is a beat of silence, then a blackout.*

## SCENE 18

*Estelle runs into her workshop. She's obviously upset, looks like she has been crying. She goes toward the basin in the middle of the room. It's fogging already, and the wormhole device is in it. She connects the electricity generator to the wormhole device. Her hand hovers on the lever, and Luna runs into the workshop.*

LUNA

What are you waiting for? You know what universe I am in.

ESTELLE

I'm thinking, okay?

LUNA

What is there to think about? Don't you want to see me?

ESTELLE

I did see you.

LUNA

You know it wasn't enough. You weren't there with me.

*Estelle pulls the lever. The wormhole being open is just as chaotic and beautiful as the previous times. Estelle runs over to the computer, and punches the coordinates of the parallel universe Luna 878,500,616 lives in. She grabs the protective suit from under the desk and walks over to the wormhole. She is about to put the protective suit on when Terrare bursts in.*

TERRARE

Estelle!

*Estelle turns around.*

ESTELLE

T.

LUNA

You need to go now.

TERRARE

So, that's just it. You're leaving?

LUNA

She needs to go. She owes it to me.

ESTELLE

I need to go. I can't fucking stay here after everything.

TERRARE

You weren't even going to say good-bye?

LUNA

There are bigger things than that.

*Estelle puts her head in her hands.*

ESTELLE

Shut-up!

TERRARE

What?

ESTELLE

Not you-her. And I figured you wouldn't want to see me.

LUNA

You need to go now!

I still care.

TERRARE

I need more time.

ESTELLE

Time for what?

TERRARE

Please, just go now.

LUNA

I-I-I have to go. I have to see Luna.

ESTELLE

You don't have to do anything. You can make the choice to stay and face up to what happened.

TERRARE

She needs to speak to me, while I'm alive.

LUNA

I am facing up to what happened by going.

ESTELLE

Please, just stay. Just stay and try to work through all of this.

TERRARE

I can't stay for you.

ESTELLE

I'm not asking you to stay for me. I'm asking you to stay for you. You are stronger than you realize.

TERRARE

Estelle, just put the suit on, and go. Now, before he gets a chance to stop you.

LUNA

Go away. Just go away. I don't want you here anymore.

ESTELLE

You don't mean that.

LUNA

Estelle, what's going on?

TERRARE



*Estelle looks directly at Luna.*

ESTELLE

I do mean it. I can't do this anymore. Whatever this is.

*Terrare looks where Estelle is looking, then he looks back at Estelle.*

TERRARE

She's not real, but she won't go away if you just leave. It doesn't fix what happened.

ESTELLE

I have to make this right.

TERRARE

Running away doesn't make things right. Everything that happened to you happened for a reason. You can't just erase the fact that Luna died. She may look like Luna, but the Luna that is your actual sister is dead. She's always going to be dead, and you have to come to terms with that.

LUNA

Don't listen to him.

ESTELLE

I just want to stop this hurt.

TERRARE

Then stay and get help here.

LUNA

Please.

*Estelle is silent for a couple of moments.*

ESTELLE

I'm sorry, okay? I'm sorry you died. I can't change that! I wish I could. I need to move on...in this universe. That Luna is not you, and I hope she realizes I'm not her Estelle. The real you would want me to move on.

LUNA

I'm real. I promise, I'm real. You just have to go to another universe to find me.

ESTELLE

You're not real. I love you, but you're gone. I'm sorry.

*Estelle pulls the lever down, and the stage goes dark for a couple of moments. When the lights come back up, everything is back to normal. Luna's not on stage anymore. It's*

*Estelle and Terrare. Silence rings out for a moment. They just stare at each other. Breathing.*

TERRARE

You were right.

ESTELLE

About what?

TERRARE

The wormhole. When it's open, it's beautiful.

ESTELLE

Yeah. Yeah, it is.

*They smile hesitantly at each other. Then, the lights go out.*

*The lights come back up, and Luna and Estelle are back on stage. The wormhole is open, and Estelle has the suit on.*

LUNA

He's not coming.

ESTELLE

I know.

LUNA

Then, why aren't you through the wormhole, already.

ESTELLE

I'm just trying to absorb what I'm about to do.

LUNA

Well, hurry up because I'm waiting on the other side.

*There are a couple moments of tense silence. Estelle looks at the wormhole.*

LUNA

Go through, please.

*Estelle goes through the wormhole, and the lights go out.*

*The lights come back up, and Estelle, Luna, and Terrare are all on stage. The wormhole is open.*

TERRARE

You don't have to do anything. You can make the choice to stay and face up to what happened.

LUNA

She needs to speak to me, while I'm alive.

ESTELLE

I am facing up to what happened by going.

TERRARE

Please, just stay. Just stay and try to work through all of this. I love you.

LUNA

Estelle, just put the suit on, and go. Now, before he gets a chance to stop you.

ESTELLE

Go away. Just go away. I don't want you here anymore.

LUNA

You don't mean that.

TERRARE

Estelle, what's going on?

*Estelle looks directly at Luna.*

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I do mean it. I can't do this anymore. Whatever this is.

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LUNA

Don't listen to him.

ESTELLE

I just want to stop this hurt.

TERRARE

Then stay and get help here.

LUNA

Please.

*Estelle pulls the lever down, and the stage goes dark for a couple of moments. When the lights come back up, everything is back to normal. Luna's not on stage anymore. It's Estelle and Terrare. Silence rings out for a moment. They just stare at each other. Tension rings out through the air, and it finally breaks when they rush toward each other, eventually kissing. The lights go out.*

*The lights come back up. It's just Estelle and Luna. No Terrare. No suit. The wormhole is open.*

ESTELLE

I'm sorry, okay? I'm sorry you died. I can't change that! I wish I could. I need to move on...in this universe. That Luna is not you, and I hope she realizes I'm not her Estelle. The real you would want me to move on.

LUNA

I'm real. I promise, I'm real. You just have to go to another universe to find me.

ESTELLE

You're not real. I love you, but you're gone. I'm sorry.

*Estelle pulls the lever down, and the stage goes dark for a couple of moments. When the lights come back up, everything is back to normal. Luna's not on stage anymore. Estelle is alone, but she's okay. She smiles. She really is okay.*

*End of play.*

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